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## ...ine words at Cancun: when is the action?

...ably the most important out...e of the North-South summit ...un, Mexico, was that it was held

...ticism reigned two years ago the Brandt Report proposed a ...t meeting of political leaders industrialised and developing ...ies.

...Willy Brandt and his supporters, ...ly Chancellor Kreisky of Austria ...esident *Lopez Portillo of Mexico*, ...led.

...y managed to arrange a gathering ...leaders from the North and the ...at the fashionable Mexican seaside ...of Cancun.

...er before had so many world lea...nt to review such a topic as the ...ed and increasingly serious ...ms faced by the Third World.

...It was a topic that very much de...consideration by this august body ...cient politicians.

...problems were the only undis...facts at the conference table. The ...Bank had sounded the two fore...danger signals just before the ...t.

...the end of the 80s the number of ...and starving people in the world ...mount to a staggering 850 million. ...the end of next year the debts run ...y the developing countries will ...ut to an equally staggering $450bn, ...te short of the world's annual arms ...diture.

...e 22 delegations from both hemis...s headed for Mexico with these gloomy prospects in mind. But ...h and South *clearly had different* ...s on the subject.

...e North in particular was at odds ...the South in the suggestions it ...e on how to deal with this crucial ...of the late 20th century.

...esident Reagan had set himself ...from the rest with a philosophy of ...lopment that was very much his ...He would like to prescribe for the ...ld economy the prescription he has ...the US domestic economy.

...advocates more private enterprise ...e Third World, free world trade and ...al aid instead of the uncontroll...ums contributed by the US Treasury towards the World Bank and the IMF.

The idea behind this last idea is self-evident. With the emphasis on bilateral aid the United States would be able to give preferential treatment to Third World countries that were well disposed towards America.

The other Western powers have no intention of following suit. They are led by President Mitterand of France, who *verbally at least emerged as the spokes*man of the Third World.

Yet Bonn too, which has so far shared the dock with the United States at North-South conference, cautiously dissociated itself from President Reagan's development policy.

The North, then, was in in disarray at Cancun, whereas the developing countries closed ranks much more effectively, presenting their demands in much more *moderate terms than in the past.*

Their aims remain unchanged, however, having been headed *since 1974* by the demand for a New International Economic Order.

This heading includes measures to stabilise commodity earnings, to open markets in industrialised countries for exports from the Third World, to facilitate the transfer of technology and to reform the international monetary system.

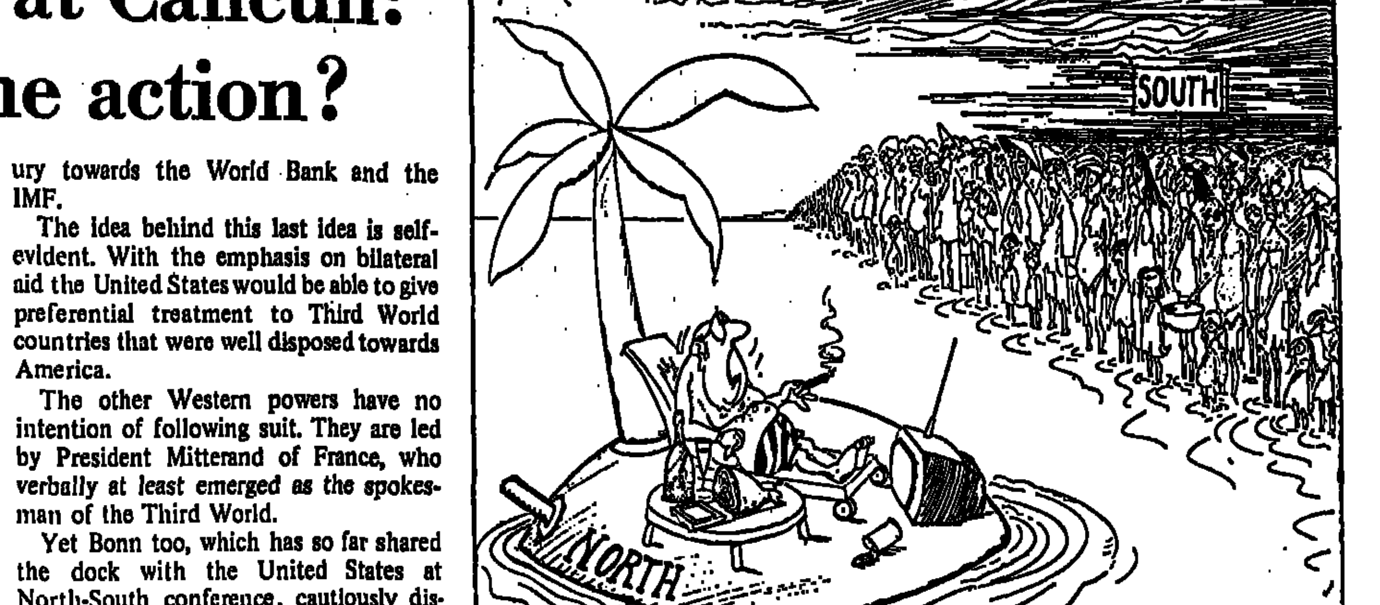
When this catalogue of demands is taken alongside the outcome of the Cancun summit the summit will be seen to have achieved little or nothing.

Does this mean Cancun was a failure, yet another missed opportunity? No it doesn't. Not, at least, in relation to what summit delegations were expecting.

The North-South summit was not intended to come up with sure-fire solu-

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'Anything the matter with you guys?'
(Cartoon: Hanel/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland)

## Kohl in Washington plays fair by Schmidt

The advantage enjoyed by the government of the day by virtue of holding office is particularly marked in foreign policy.

Parliamentarians of the parties in power generally benefit from their proximity to the corridors where it is exercised.

Opposition members find it hard to arrange meetings with leading office-holders abroad and correspondingly hard to get a hearing and make names for themselves in foreign affairs.

Bonn Opposition leader Helmut Kohl would endorse this sentiment for sure.

In 1976, when he stood for Chancellor on behalf of the CDU/CSU, he found it extremely difficult to brush up his image as a statesman with a reputation abroad that came anywhere near challenging Chancellor Schmidt's.

He has since improved his performance, especially during his latest visit to the United States, ending in a meeting with President Reagan.

America welcomed Herr Kohl as a leading representative of forces in the Federal Republic of Germany that attach the greatest foreign policy significance to Nato and to ties with the United States.

He was also seen as a Shadow Chancellor whose claim to power would be virtually indisputable if the Bonn coalition were to break down and power to change hands in the near future.

Herr Kohl resisted the temptation to score domestic points in Washington by outlining to his US hosts the Opposition's objections to the Bonn government's policies and then interpreting furrowed brows in Washington as signs of US alarm.

There was no reason why the CDU chairman and Bonn Opposition leader should resort to such tactics.

For one, US worries about neutralist trends in the Federal Republic are nothing new. At the same time there can be no doubting the loyalty to Nato shown by the SPD-FDP Bonn coalition government led by Helmut Schmidt.

Herr Kohl was a credible advocate of German interests in America. Not for a moment did he depart from the security

Continued on page 2

Bonn Opposition leader Helmut Kohl is welcomed to the White House by President Reagan (Photo: Sven Simon)



SHIPPING

## Steps to reverse flags of convenience trend

...ps sailing under the German flag ...re to be allowed to use smaller ...s. The move, which comes into ef...next year, is aimed at halting the ...ularity of sailing *under flags of con*...ence.

...ost is the reason. Wages on Ger...registered ships are 30 to 50 per ...higher than foreign registered ves... and until now, larger crews were ...ed (but not because of safety).

...costs about DM700,000 a year more ...ll a medium-sized tramper of about ...00 gross registered tonnes under the ...man flag.

The major *worry* is that the declining ...man fleet means the nation cannot ...assured of "a fair share" of foreign ...e, according to Harm Westendorf, head of the shipping department at the Bonn Transport Ministry.

By the end of last year, the German fleet sailing under German flag had dwindled to 7m GRT. The tonnage of German vessels sailing under foreign flags rose to 4m GRT.

The first eight months of this year saw German flag ships diminish by 500,000 GRT. Yet the number of ships that switched to flags of convenience rose by only 130,000 GRT.

A joint shipowners, trade unions and Transport Ministry committee diagnosed high personnel costs as the main reason *for resorting to flags of convenience.*

The trade unions rejected suggestions to pay foreign seamen (about 25 per cent of the 30,000 crew members sailing on German ships) the wages customary in their home countries.

As a result, the only remedy that remained was to lower the required number of crew, which is to be legislated now that various details under dispute have been settled.

Under the new regulations, the required crew will depend on the size of the vessel and fewer crew members are to be allowed if they are fully qualified seamen.

For example: under the old regulations, a conventional freighter of 4,000 to 6,000 GRT had to carry a crew of 27. This is now to be reduced to 20 if all crew members are fully trained seamen and to 23 if unskilled help is employed.

These provisions can be changed if a committee agrees to do so.

The savings for the model ship would amount to an annual DM200,000.

Shipowners would also be provided with relief in the same amount if the subsidies that have been in existence for the past three years and are due to expire at the end of this year are continued.

Transport Minister Hauff has said that he would press for an extension of the subsidy provisions.

Fiscal experts of the three parties in the Bundestag have suggested that the subsidies be reviewed and aligned with *the subsidies paid* for new construction. There is also some talk of tax relief, especially where non-profit related taxes are concerned, which do not apply to foreign flag vessels. This would reduce the operating costs for the model ship by another DM100,000. The transport ministers of the individual *Länder* back such a move but the finance ministers have reservations.

*Hans-J. Mahnke*

(Die Welt, 8 October 1981)

Continued from page 7

...rgy research award by a British oil ...mpany, then a personal prize worth ...25,000 and now a further prize from ...Bonn Science Centre.

...he latest *award was made, after a 12*-...nth grant, at a conference on alterna...energy held at the Bonn centre.

...ext year he will be competing for ...oil company's international energy ...arch prize. It is an award scheme for ...h 71 universities have submitted ...projects.

...cond prizes worth DM 12,500 each ...e awarded in Bonn to Professor ...r of the Bundeswehr University, ...burg, and Professor Sitzmann of ...ich University.

...rofessor Baehr earned his award with ...at pump project, Professor Sizmann ...h a new way of storing solar energy ...heating.

...rwin Stahl, parliamentary state secre...at the Research Ministry, speaking ...the award ceremony, welcomed the ...tive shown by the oil company.

...dustry, scientific research and the ...e must continue, Dr Stahl said, to ...re responsibility and the financial ...den and risks.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 October 1981)

## Fully enclosed lifeboat key to survival

...he Bonn Transport Ministry is press...ing for regulations to ensure that ...new vessels of 1,600 gross registered ...tnes or more are equipped with fully ...losed lifeboats.

...Imco, the United Nations shipping ...anisation, is considering recommend... the use of enclosed lifeboats, but ...thing is likely to happen before 1985.

...Norway has already passed a law ...king the boats compulsory for all ...els of 300 GRT or more.

...nclosed lifeboats are considered to ...better protection in heavy seas, ex...me cold, and against fire.

...Of the 27 nations which two years ...attended Imco deliberations on the ...type of lifeboat, 16 favoured the ...losed vessel equipment.

...It was above all the Soviet Union that ...osed the introduction of the new li...oats. Moscow's attitude is incompre...sible because most of the Soviet ...rchant fleet has this type of lifeboat.

...aptain Manfred Wietfeldt of M/S ...sdeich: "Between 1960 and 1970, the ...sians ordered about 300 of these ...s from the Lüne yard in Bremerha...n – 60 of them in a fireproof version ...use on board tankers.

"After expiry of the patent in the 1970s, they built additional boats themselves. The boat was designed by the owner of the yard, Gustav Kuhr, a former submarine designer. He shut down his yard in the mid-1970s because he found no buyers among German shipowners although this type of lifesaving equipment was officially approved in 1970".

Another self-righting lifeboat was designed by the Ernst Hatecke Co, in Drochtersen. Tests in April showed that the fibreglass boat, which has a sprinkler system, can withstand fire degrees temperatures of 1,400 centigrade; 5,200 litres of light oil and petrol were poured over the boat and ignited, causing an inferno from which the boat emerged with no more than light, superficial damage.

Among the most outspoken supporters of the new type of lifeboat is the German white collar union which says about the conventional lifeboat that "you cannot find anything worse."

The enclosed boats, on the other hand, a spokesman says, have proved their worth.

The union is convinced that enclosed boats can be launched fast and safely and give adequate protection against fire, damp and cold.

They will right themselves when they capsize, if all seatbelts are fastened.

The reason for the reluctance of shipowners (with one exception) to adopt the new lifeboat is its price which, depending on equipment, can be as much as five times that of a conventional boat.

The Shipowners Association's official line is that it does not want to introduce a system that has not been fully tested.

The Mariners' Association, on the other hand, favours the new boat.

In a survey involving captains and officers which was carried out by the Association, 400 of the interviewees (94 per cent) favoured the new lifeboat.

*Karl-Heinz Spieker*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 September 1981)

Square hammer-bow of the new ice-breaker.
(Photo: J. Schultz/TNSW)

## New generation of ice-breaker comes off the boards

New designs for ice-breakers are emerging as a result of commercial pressures.

The polar regions have resources *which are becoming more important* and more easily accessible as energy and raw material supplies dwindle.

But the trouble is that it is difficult to transfer design characteristics of the traditional ice-breaker to commercial vessels.

Even reinforced bow sections and a strengthened underwater hull are not enough to ensure safe operation, as the mishap of the converted American tanker *Manhattan* — which ran into trouble along the Arctic circle — shows.

A joint research project by German shipyards and the Mamburg Marine Engineering Research Institute (HSVA) on new designs for ice-breaking vessels has progressed to the point where its results could be used in the design of Germany's new polar research vessel.

The findings have also been used in the conversion of an ice-breaker into a commercial vessel. Here, the insights gained in the ice tank testing of scale models have been applied directly to the full-scale ship.

Thyssen Nordseewerke has been working with HSVA since 1975 in an effort to develop ice-breaking ships along the lines of the Waas concept, *named after Heinrich Waas, and based* on a design principle in which the ice-breaking is done by a hammer-like bow section rather than by a flared or convex fore section.

This hammer-like bow slowly advances on the ice cover, cutting it with its reinforced hull plating and pushing the ice aside through the sheer weight of the ship.

The wedge-like and flared underwater section of the bow *that begins at the* waterline cuts the depressed ice floe into two.

The broken pieces are pushed away from the hull by a system of ice jets, leaving an ice-free wake.

The trial runs of the *Manhattan* showed that much of her engine power went into overcoming the friction between the hull, individual ice floes and the solid ice cover.

*Since a Waas-designed vessel has an* ice-free wake wider than the ship's beam, there is no loss of power due to friction.

Test runs with the converted ice-breaker *Max Waldeck*, which were carried out off Finland, showed that the power requirements (given the same speed and thickness of ice) were about half or two-thirds of the requirements for a conventional ice-breaker.

The converted ice-breaker had no problems shoving aside ice floes and breaking her way through a solid cover.

The *Max Waldeck* also operates more smoothly than a conventional ice-breaker.

Her manoeuvrability in ice and in open water was outstanding. So was her course stability.

She can turn within a small radius and, unlike conventional ice-breakers, she can enlarge the ice-free channel by another ship's width by sailing through it again.

Fears based on the original tank tests that the hammer bow would lead to unpleasant pounding and pitching in heavy weather have not been borne out.

Due to the air that the bow sucks in and that passes under the ship's hull, there is a cushion that prevents pounding. This effect was not observed in the tank tests.

*Heribert Weihönig*

(Die Welt, 10 October 1981)

**WORLD AFFAIRS**

# Fresh impetus on Europe in Common Market

French President Francois Mitterrand has called for a fresh impetus on European integration. Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo favours an action programme.

His German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher advocates European Union Now, while the European Commission, headed by Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, has even advocated a new treaty to establish a European Union.

So Europe is back at the drawing board and the political debate among the Ten is in full swing again, with another fundamental issue having joined the crucial realignment of the Common Market's budget.

The French, Italian, German and European Commission proposals differ both in starting points and in objectives; they also differ in the points on which theoy are specific.

The new look at European integration was first advocated by Bonn's Herr Genscher, who has been canvassing support for European Union since the Free Democrats' 6 January Stuttgart meeting.

He has been lent most support by Signor Colombo and can now be confident the Benelux countries would join the bandwaggon even though two of them are currently in the throes of a government crisis.

The response in Paris has been positive in principle, meaning for one that for national reasons France would prefer not to take the lead in any institutional development of the European Community.

It also means that M. Mitterrand's plans and those of his European Affairs Minister André Chandernagor are slightly at odds with those espoused by the Germans.

The British for their part have, during Lord Carrington's tenure as chairman of the Council of Ministers, pursued a policy of practical improvements and extensions to EEC activities that has made substantial headway.

Common Market Foreign Ministers have agreed in London on the following points:

– to coordinate political security policies more closely in future, while continuing to exclude from the purview of this cooperation bona fide defence problems;

– to evolve a crisis mechanism based on the understanding that if three member-countries call for a special session either the Council of Ministers or the political affairs committee must be convened within 48 hours.

The intention here is to react swiftly and uniformly to occurrences such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as and when they happen;

– and to set up a working party to provide back-up for the chairman of the Council of Ministers. It is to consist of one representative each of the outgoing, current and forthcoming chairmen.

Bonn feels these resolutions are right but by no means enough, which is why Herr Genscher insists on his idea, scaled down though it may have been by his Cabinet, of a fully-fledged declaration of European principles.

Basically it would merely solemnise under the aegis of the European Council, or summit meeting of EEC leaders, the work of the Councils of Ministers on the one hand and the process of European Political Cooperation (which is not based on the Treaty of Rome) on the other.

Informal fireside chats without a fixed agenda would then within a decade have emerged as the governing body of the European Community.

In practice this institutional reaffirmation would do little more than bear out the status quo, yet there could be no denying that it would be of enormous symbolic value.

There once was a time when EEC Foreign Ministers met in Copenhagen in the afternoon and in Brussels the same evening, the aim being to draw a clear distinction between the voluntary cooperation of EPC and the treaty commitments of the Council of Ministers.

But the Ministers have long abandoned this weird and wonderful means of emphasising the distinction.

Herr Genscher would like to expressly include in his declaration of principles security policy and cultural cooperation. He has also called for wider powers for the European Assembly, albeit within the scope outlined in the Treaty of Rome.

Once every six months the chairman of the Council of Ministers is to answer questions put to him by members of the European Assembly.

Resolutions tabled by the Strasbourg Europarliament must likewise be answered and ought not, Bonn's Foreign Minister feels, to be ignored.

The Italians are largely in agreement with Herr Genscher's views, but Rome would like to go even further. Signor Colombo has visions of an economic policy chapter.

On economic policy he envisages what would amount to an action programme and go far beyond mere declarations of principle.

Bonn has nothing to say on this part of the Italian proposals, whereas M. Mitterrand is keenly interested. Joint moves against unemployment form the nucleus of the French leader's programme for Europe.

He has plans for a new social sector and for a Europe of working people, a Europe for employees rather than for employers, a concept much vaunted by the Socialists.

The French aide-mémoire dispenses entirely with institutional development of the EEC and calls instead for a European social budget, or joint employment programme.

This promptly confronts the Ten with France's new economic policy, which is way out of tune with the rebuff given in Bonn to a major programme of job creation.

It is also a far cry from the economic policy pursued by Mrs Thatcher in Whitehall, so it requires little imagination to appreciate that growing disparity in economic policy could well prove a fresh divisive force within the EEC.

The latest plans are the handiwork of the European Commission in Brussels. They have more in common with the insitutional changes envisaged by Bonn.

The Commission's proposals, drafted under the aegis of Dutch EEC Commissioner Frans Andriessen and presented to the European Assembly by M. Thorn, include as a key feature abolition of the right of veto in the Council of Ministers.

The Commission calls for majority decisions by the Council, which wuld be no more than the provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

It would also like to see the European Assembly given greater influence in the legislative sector and laments its own loss of power.

The Council of Ministers, the Commission complains, has emerged as the sole genuine centre of power. It calls for a return to the balance of power that prevailed in years gone by.

This criticism has been greeted with mixed feelings by Euro-MPs. They, in common with the Commission, welcome the Genscher Plan because it promises to get Europe back on the move.

But they are worried it might result in a lopsided increase in powers exercised at intergovernmental level.

"There is much to be said for formalising established practice that has yet to be given the status of a treaty provision," says German Euro-MP Klaus Hänsch.

"But when it comes to wider p[owers] for the European Assembly the pro[pos]als are far too perfunctory."

Herr Hänsch is a Social Dem[ocrat]. The Christian Democratic and L[iberal] leaders in the Europarliament [argue] along similar lines.

It remains to be seen how these [Eu]ropean plans will be reconciled in [the] weeks ahead, but a date on which [a so]lemn declaration might well be [pro]claimed readily comes to mind.

It is 25 March 1982, which will b[e the] 25th anniversary of the signing o[f the] Treaty of Rome setting up the Com[mon] Market in 1957.

*Ulrich L[...]*

(Die Welt, 20 October [1981])

# Fair play

Continued from page 1

policy resolution backed in the Bonn Bundestag by the CDU/CSU Opposition.

The Opposition resolution had naturally been outvoted by the ruling coalition but, apart from the odd tactical point, was intended to endorse the Chancellor's security policy and back it in view of criticism from within the coalition parties.

There can be no doubt that the missile modernisation, arms control and alliance policies outlined in Washington by Helmut Kohl would have been advocated by Helmut Schmidt too.

Herr Kohl kept to within the confines laid down by Bonn coalition visitors to Washington before him. He echoed the applause Christian Democrats had given the Chancellor in the Bundestag.

He also reminded the Americans, gently but definitely, that they, the British and the French are committed not to losing sight of the aim of reuniting Germany in peace and freedom.

This reminder may have surprised his hosts inasmuch as the Americans currently face more pressing problems in view of the many upsets in world affairs.

But it was by no means out of place. Given Mr Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to Bonn it was by no means inappropriate since the Soviet leader might well come up with a tempting proposal.

Were he to do so he would be fanning the flames of the very neutralist trends that are noted so carefully in the White House.

Helmut Kohl ensured in Washington that the US government would not be surprised if the Soviet Union were to make some such bid in Bonn.

Helmut Schmidt could not have done this job better!

*Bodo Schulte*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 17 October 1981)

# Fine words

Continued from page 1

tions and results, as delegations had [al]ready indicated by deliberately sca[ling] down expectations.

Maybe they did so in order no[t to] have to talk afterwards in terms of [fail]ure. The success was certainly mor[e at]mospheric than quantifiable.

It was an improvement in the cli[mate] of opinion prevailing between rich [and] poor. The conference chairmen, P[resi]dent Lopez Portillo of Mexico and [Pre]mier Trudeau of Canada, referred to [the] Spirit of Cancun.

There was a specific result to go [with] this reference to the spirits. Global [ne]gotiations under UN auspices, w[hich] had been shelved for over a year, [are] to get under way at last.

All aspects of North-South ties are [to] be covered. They include trade, [deve]lopment, monetary and financial aff[airs], energy and commodities. Findings ar[e to] lead to an action programme.

The go-ahead for global talks wa[s the] result of agreement by the United St[ates]. And it took grammatical sleight-of-h[and] to persuade the Americans.

With a modicum of exaggeration [the] limited success of Cancun could thus [be] said to have been the decision, at [the] conference table, to enter into fresh [ne]gotiations.

The decision to go ahead with glo[bal] talks, even though it was not taken u[ntil] the last minute, justified having h[eld] such an ambitious summit.

It can hardly be said to have been [a] failure when politicians so far ap[art] from each other as Secretary of St[ate] Haig and India's Mrs Gandhi sounded [a] similar note.

Mr Haig said the summit had been [an] extraordinary success. Mrs Gandhi, w[ho] is given to speaking on the Th[ird] World's behalf, said it had been a st[ep] forward.

Action must nonetheless follow [the] fine words in which the final commu[ni]qué was couched. Action alone will [al]loviate the hardship suffered in [the] Third and Fourth World. *Wolfgang H[...]*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 October 19[81])

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**[N]ATO**

# [Re]agan's nuclear war in Europe misquote corroborates Euromissile case

[Eur]opean opinion, upset by the Nato [mis]sile modernisation debate, was [u]pset by an off-the-cuff remark [by Pres]ident Reagan.

[Mr Re]agan told a Washington reporter [he cou]ld envisage nuclear war in Europe [withou]t the superpowers necessarily [attac]king each other's territory.

[Bunde]stag MP Herr Scheer (SPD) said [Mr Re]agan had abandoned the entire [Nato d]octrine while writer Dieter Latt[mann s]ummed up his shock in the terse [phrase]: "He just cannot mean it!"

[Washington] wasted no time in clarifying the [matter,] saying the press had taken Rea[gan's w]ords out of context. It said Mr [Reagan h]ad not mentioned Europe when [speaking] of the possibility of a limited [nuclear] war.

[H]e can only have meant Europe [when h]e said that he could imagine an [exchan]ge of nuclear fire with tactical [weapon]s directed against troops in the [field w]ithout one of the two superpo[wers ha]ving to press the button that [would l]aunch intercontinental ballistic [missile]s.

[Althou]gh what President Reagan said [was cer]tainly less pointed than depicted [by the] press, even in context and inter[preted a]s they were meant, his words [could no]t fail to arouse emotions in Eu[rope].

[It has] always been a horror vision for [Euro]peans to imagine the two su[perpowe]rs could engage in a nuclear war [solel]y in Europe while their own ter[ritories] were spared.

[Presid]ent Reagan should have expected this response by the Europeans and he would certainly have made the Nato security policy debate easier had he phrased his answer at a news conference differently.

But a closer examination of what the President actually said makes the European outcry rather surprising. After all, he only reaffirmed Nato's defence strategy since the mid-1960s when the massive retaliation strategy was abandoned.

The concept at that time was that an attack by Moscow would instantly trigger a massive use of nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union. It was the doctrine of absolute deterrent.

But this concept lost in credibility as the Soviet Union built up its nuclear arsenal to the point where it could respond to any American nuclear strike. Ever since, Nato strategy has been that of a flexible response.

This strategy is based on the assumption that Nato must have the capability of responding to an attack with the same weapons the aggressor uses and of stepping up this response to the point where it includes nuclear warheads if necessary.

This means keeping military conflicts as limited as possible while at the same time deterring an aggressor by the threat of stepping up response to the level of intercontinental nuclear war.

One of the drawbacks in this strategy has been its ambivalence from the very beginning. It is based on the deterrent by which any potential aggressor is made to understand that a conflict, once started, would get out of his control and possibly lead to a global nuclear holocaust.

By the same token, Nato forces must be in a position to contain a conflict and prevent it from developing into a general nuclear war. And this means restricting a European conflict to Europe for as long as possible.

Naturally, nobody knows how rapidly such a conflict could intensify to the point where the use of nuclear weapons in general and ICBMs in particular would have to be considered. This uncertainty forms part of the deterrent.

There can be no doubt that the flexible response strategy rests on the assumption that the initial use of tactical nuclear weapons will not automatically trigger a process that will lay the whole world in ruins.

The Europeans must therefore ask themselves whether they actually consider this desirable or whether they should demand that, following the first nuclear weapons fired in Europe, any attempt at a political or military solution below the threshold of an all-out atom war should be unthinkable.

The real question of a European nuclear war is whether one could imagine a war started in Europe being restricted to the continent at a risk that is fairly calculable.

The trouble is that peace would then become uncertain because one of the superpowers could start such a conflict, believing that it would not itself be affected by it.

But exactly this is the incalculable element. And it is this that President Reagan did not say.

What he did say was that he did not believe that a nuclear war could be won at all.

Those who fear that the USA could start or accept a European war should ask themselves what the superpowers, and America in particular, would stand to gain from it.

A Europe destroyed would be of little use to anybody and would hardly be worth sacrificing the whole of the American army corps now stationed in Europe. Any careful pondering of Mr Reagan's unfortunate remark also makes it clear where the danger of a limited conflict coule lie.

It would lie in the fact that in a war that would destroy Europe and not the Soviet Union the superpowers could theoretically decide to end the conflict before it had spread to their own territories because any limitation of a conflict became impossible once one of the superpowers came under direct attack.

This means that Mr Reagan's policy of stationing Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe (targeted on the Soviet Union) should arms control talks fail is not aimed at containing a conflict.

The Nato decision to station these missiles in Europe is intended to make it clear that conflicts cannot be easily contained and that they could well escalate to the point where they involve the superpowers' territories.

Mr Reagan's policy therefore rebuts the suspicion that he wants to spare America a nuclear risk at Europe's expense.

No superpower that attacks the other superpower, regardless where the attack is launched from, can restrict the conflict to Europe.

*Thomas Löffelholz*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 October 1981)

# America shares the burden of 'flexible response'

[Genera]l Gerd Schmückle was deputy [supreme] commander of Nato forces in [Europe] until his retirement in March [...]

[Henr]y Kissinger once told me in [Br]ussels that the way many Euro[peans] imagined a war was that Ameri[cans an]d Russians would shoot nuclear [missile]s at each other over the heads of [the Eu]ropeans so that they could con[tinue g]oing about their day-to-day busi[ness].

[Natur]ally, anybody nurturing such il[lusion]s must be disappointed by Presi[dent R]eagan's recent remarks. It so hap[pens th]at Europe's geostrategic position [is less f]avourable than that of America.

[That] being so, it was helpful that Pre[sident] Reagan reminded the Europeans [that i]t is impossible to preserve and [mainta]in peace without running a risk.

[Aske]d whether there could be such a [thing a]s a limited exchange of nuclear [weapons] between America the Soviet [Union] or whether such an exchange [would] automatically escalate into a all-[out wa]r, the President answered quite [candidl]y that he did not know.

[He w]as right. Nobody can answer this [questio]n. Nothing is certain and nothing [can be] taken for granted in war.

[As a] result, the very element of un[predict]ability is a fundamental aspect of [Nato s]trategy. What weapons Nato de[ploys i]n any given situation will depend [on th]e aggressor, his aims, his successes, [his set]backs and a number of other cir[cumsta]nces.

[Sho]uld the Soviets (though I don't an[ticipat]e this) attack the West, Western [Europ]e would naturally be more threa[tened] than America.

Yet the Americans have borne a major risk since the end of World War II on Western Europe's behalf. And they did not do so because they were naive, but to protect their own interests. It is for that reason that they have stationed a whole army corps in Europe.

Even so, the Europeans have been troubled time and again by whether America would follow through with the risk it has taken upon itself should it come to the crunch.

It was this that prompted Britain and France to develop and preserve their nuclear striking power.

It was this that prompted the establishment of a nuclear planning staff at Nato on which the Europeans and the Americans draft nuclear policy.

When President Reagan said that he could imagine an exchange of tactical nuclear fire against troops in the field without either of the two superpowers having to press the button that will launch ICBMs, he only described what had been common Nato strategy for some time: the flexible response concept.

This provides for any attack to be halted with the least loss of territory and using the lowest range of available weapons. The idea is to drive home to an aggressor that the further he advances the greater the risk from Western weapons systems.

Seen in this light, an attack can be halted locally or regionally or on a European scale. And that is exactly what the President said.

It is, of course, conceivable for tactical weapons only to have to be used on the battlefield itself. The prime objective would be to make the aggressor come to his political senses.

Anybody who interprets this to mean that America wants to disengage itself from Europe misunderstands the meaning and the objectives of Nato strategy and mechanisms.

The Soviet Euromissile build-up has created a gap in the Western deterrent. What Mr Reagan said on this subject is nothing but a reaffirmation of Nato policy as already decided.

The idea is to create a sort of stalemate with the help of Western Europe, the same stalemate that exists globally, not to wage war but to prevent it.

Even should a potential aggressor consider dealing the first blow against Western Europe he can, as President Reagan put it, not afford to do so due to the threat by American ICBMs.

But those who impute evil intentions to America, and there are at present plenty who do so in West Germany, argue differently.

They say that the new Euromissiles to be stationed in Western Europe will not be deployed to strengthen the deterrent and contain a potential conflict but for the sole purpose of restricting a war to the European continent. But this contention is completely at odds with the Nato concept.

Instead, the Eurostrategic nuclear programmes remain part of global American programmes as borne out by the fact that the bolstering of Western defences is to remain below the Soviet Union's Eurostrategic potential in numerical terms.

Nato planners have never intended to develop an independent Eurostrategic nuclear potential, which could in fact create the impression that the Americans wanted to uncouple themselves from Europe.

President Reagan stressed that Soviet military manuals pointed to the fact that the Kremlin believed it could win a nuclear war. That is correct. It is also correct that the Warsaw Pact's military brass thinks along these lines and has written this into the manual.

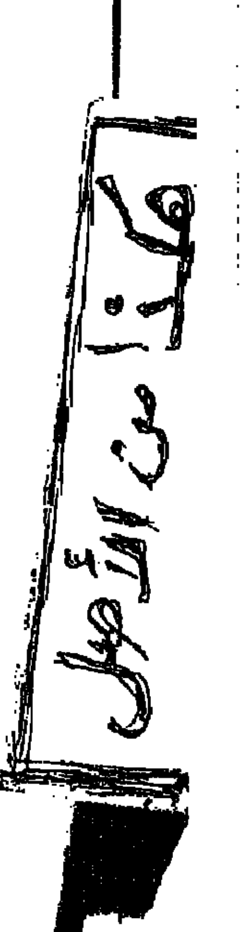
But I myself believe that Soviet politicians are less and less inclined to think in such categories. They have come to understand Nato's strategy.

As a result, it is quite possible that the strategies of both alliances will become firmly implanted in the minds of Soviet politicians to start with and, later, in those of the military.

If this were actually to come about it would serve as an important, precondition for arms control in both pacts.

*Gerd Schmückle*

(Die Welt, 21 October 1981)



■ WAR CRIMES

# Memorial to Hamburg concentration camp

A commemorative museum has been opened on the site of a former concentration camp on the outskirts of Hamburg where an estimated 55,000 people were killed.

The museum, described as a document house, has been assembled by the Hamburg History Museum together with various organisations of former inmates.

Politicians attended the opening ceremony, but they had no reason for smugness. The project has only come to fruition after years of public pressure.

The camp is Neuengamme. It lies between Bergedorf, a suburb 20 kilometres south east of Hamburg, and the Elbe River.

Although a memorial to the victims was built in the mid-1960s, Neuengamme had for too long been one of the forgotten concentration camps.

Nothing would have been done if constant pressure not been applied.

The former Polish party leader, Edward Gierek, brought the subject up during a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The long period of official lack of interest caused a lot of bitterness. This was made worse when many who had long been pushing for this memorial were not invited to the opening ceremony.

Speakers at the ceremony included Madame Aubrey, president of *Amicale Internationale de Neuengamme*, Konrad Hoffmann, chairman of the work group of Nazi victims; and the mayor of Hamburg, Klaus von Dohnanyi.

Some 106,000 from almost all European countries were held at the hard labour camp.

Some 55,000 did not survive. They were hanged, shot or just succumbed to the demands of slave labour.

Many died of malnutrition, tuberculosis and other diseases. Others, like several hundred Russian prisoners of war, were gassed or given injections.

Some were chased past the guards and "shot while attempting to escape."

Thousands died in the northward trek, herded by the SS before the advancing British troops.

Outsiders find it hard to get to Neuengamme. The only road sign pointing the way is just outside town.

The fruit and vegetable growing district has a landscape of great scenic beauty which tends to belie the grim past. The tree-lined road heightens the impression of Neuengamme as an enclosure.

It forms the western boundary of the camp, which was erected in 1938 (initially as an extension of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp).

Neuengamme specialised in manufacturing bricks — a commodity from which not only the SS but the city of Hamburg as well hoped to profit.

The impression of an enclosure is further heightened by the fact that the former camp now houses a juvenile correction institution and a prison for adults.

This direct sequence from concentration camp to prison highlights a *Zeitgeist* bent on forgetting and justifying.

Next to the penitentiary there is a recreation ground, on the very spot where the parade ground was.

It was here that the camp inmates had to line up every evening to be counted after a murderous day's work.

It was here that they were abused and tortured.

And it was here that (as described by the former inmate Fritz Bringmann in his book *KZ Neuengamme*, published by Röderberg Verlag) the inmates had to watch SS guards drive Russian prisoners of war into a bunker where they were put to death with gas piped in through the roof.

An SS medic later told a Hamburg court that a second gassing had also taken place. The camp commander Max Pauli was sentenced to death by this court in 1946.

Visitors have a hard time finding the focal points of the slave labour: the brick factory and the canal leading to the Dove arm of the Elbe by which the finished products were to be transported. The brickmaking took the utmost toll in physical labour.

But the people who worked on the canal were even worse off. They had to dig up mud and distribute it ashore, frequently up to their waists in icy water. The mud had to be taken away with pushcarts and on the double.

Many inmates died in the process. Eyewitnesses say that they simply slumped into the water. Many were pushed under and others beaten to death by the Kapos (trusties) or shot by the guards.

Later, the emphasis shifted to work for the arms industry.

The Walther arms factory established a branch in Neuengamme as did a number of other companies manufacturing arms and related equipment.

The camp spread and its extensions outside Neuengamme (five in Hanover alone) gained in importance.

There the inmates worked for such companies as Continental, Hanomag and Accomulatorenfabrik. Many of them lost their lives in 1945 at the Bergen-Belsen camp. Towards the end of the war, the Neuengamme inmates were herded together for a death march to the Bay of Lübeck. The SS was determined to let the advancing British troops see as little as possible of the true conditions at Neuengamme. At Lübeck Bay, the inmates were put aboard the three vessels *Cap Arcona*, *Thielbek and Athen*.



Barbed wire emplacements at Neuengamme concentration c[..] museum (Photo[..])

The ships were attacked by British aircraft on 3 May. The British spearhead had reached the city of Lübeck a day earlier, and the *Cap Arcona* and the *Thielbek* were sunk with 7,000 prisoners.

Two weeks earlier, SS guards did something else in a attempt to do away with the evidence of atrocities: 20 Jewish children aged between five and 12, who had served an SS doctor as guinea pigs for TB experiments, were first anaesthetised by injection and then hanged in a Hamburg school.

Neuengamme, unlike Auschwitz or Treblinka, was not specifically an extermination camp. Yet the hard physical labour amounted to the same thing for tens of thousands.

The public and, above all, former inmates of Neuengamme had long urged that the monument that was erected in the mid-1960s be augmented by an institution that would prevent this blot on German history from being forgotten. But they met with little response from politicians.

The new building with its floor area of 300 square metres has deliberately been designed to create the impression of a shrine.

The individual exhibits, consisting [..] photographs and compound plans, [..] vide information on the life and d[..] of the inmates.

The russet structure is in sharp c[..] trast to the landscape in which [..] events of those years unfolded – se[..] ly and out of sight.

An action group, Initiative Docum[..] tation Centre Neuengamme, the [..] chers' Union, and a youth organisati[..] were instrumental in getting the po[..] cians moving.

And it was owing to them that [..] museum was equipped with more t[..] just the bare bones.

Far from resting on their laurels, t[..] now demand that the old brick fac[..] which is now a boatyard, be made [..] of the memorial and that the still-p[..] served sections of the camp be ded[..] national monuments.

Their demand for a special path l[..] ing through the camp is to be met [..] year when the youth group meets fo[..] peace rally in Neuengamme.

Ludwig Eiber of Munich, the head [..] the document house, is determined t[..] this should not be the end of it.

*Karsten Plog*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 October 19[..])

# Everyday life under Nazis

President Carstens has awarded the six first prizes in a competition for secondary school students on German history. This year's topic was "Everyday Life Under the Nazi Regime".

The Prizes of DM3,000 each went to four *Gymnasium* (secondary school leading to university) students, one *Hauptschule* (secondary school leading to vocational training) class and the students of a vocational school.

About 13,000 students competed, with a total of 2,172 essays—considerably more than in previous years.

The competition was started in 1973 by the late President Gustav Heinemann and businessman Kurt Körber.

In a brief address, President Carstens said that "much that should make us think has transpired from the essays," which show how people behave under a totalitarian regime.

Herr Körber conceded that the jury's concern had been that the young people might be unable to distinguish between fear and cowardice in the Nazi era and between "not wanting to help and not being able to help."

The concern proved unwarranted, he said. He pointed to a characteristic passage in one of the essays, reading: "Having talked with my grandfather, I realised how hard it is to pass moral judgement and how easy it is to condemn. I also found how hard it is to differentiate and how easy to generalise. I myself have become more cautious."

But Körber also said that he was shocked to learn that doctors who had killed Romany children during the Nazi time had been given civil service posts after the war — as doctors for juveniles, of all things.

*Gymnasium* student Michael Brenner of Weiden in Bavaria, one of the first-prize winners, dealt with the persecution of the Jews in an essay entitled "Persecution of Jews in the Third Reich Based on the Everday Lives under the Nazi Regime of the Weiden Jews".

In his introduction, the author writes: "I have tried to shed light on personal destinies by combining writing to people and questioning them with the perusal of documents in the city archives and old newspapers."

Before 1933, he wrote in his essay, Weiden knew no animosity towards the Jews. After that time, anti-Jewish excesses were committed by a few notorious Nazis.

The participants in the pogrom of 9 November 1938 (Crystal Night), he wrote, were not only "simple people".

"Among the activists of that night w[..] a senior railway official, a dentist, a t[..] cher, a white collar worker, a butche[..] saddler, a shunter, a glazer and four b[..] collar workers. The next day, the teac[..] showed up in the classroom sayi[..] 'Now we've shown our Jews a thing [..] two.' He then proceeded to make m[..] of a Jewish student."

In another essay entitled "A Life f[..] the Grand Idea" a student relates t[..] life of his Nazi great-uncle from his j[..] ning the Hitler Youth to his service [..] the Wehrmacht and his death on [..] Russian front.

The 10th grade of a *Hauptschule* [..] Dortmund describes life in a city b[..] rough inhabited primarily by miners [..] factory workers — a borough consid[..] a bastion of Communists and Soc[..] Democrats.

Yet another deals with "Conform[..] and Resistance in Everyday Sch[..] Life in the Third Reich" using a *Gy[..] nasium* and 28 vocational school [..] dents in the Upper Palatinate as [..] example.

"Most students," a spokesman for t[..] jury said, "found that official publi[..] tions marking anniversaries of schoo[..] associations and municipalities eith[..] disregard the Nazi era or try to minim[..] it through euphemisms and clichés."

*Dirk Cornelsen*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 October 19[..])

[..]TREMISM

# [..]unich shoot-out stakes pocket Führer's sordid claim to fame

**[..]othes police killed two, injured [..]d arrested two neo-Nazi suspects [..] Munich shoot-out. Two police [..] were injured. Arms and explo[..] were confiscated. Neo-Nazi leader [..]lm Busse, 52, was helping the [..] with their enquiries.**

[..]th for the Fatherland deserves [..]ernal admiration, we read in black [..] script on the front page of a new [..]thly, *Der bayerische Löwe* (The [..]an Lion).

*Hauptschriftleiter*, the Germanised [..]term for *Chefredakteur*, or editor-[..]f, is Friedhelm Busse.

[..] lion holds a Celtic cross in its [..] the emblem of the *Volkssozialis[..] Bewegung Deutschlands* (VSBD), [..]ople's Socialist Movement of Ger[..].

[..]laims to be the only legal alterna[..] o the parties of the system — the [..]gal alternative, that is, that can be [..] seriously.

[..] word 'system' used in such a con[..]s, no doubt intentionally, an im[..]e give-away. It was used by the [..]s to denote the Weimar Republic, [..]tively of course.

[..] VSDB is fast uniting all manner [..]ilant neo-Nazis. Fittingly, it is [..] Munich, where Hitler's NSDAP [..] headquarters.

[..] Würzburg commercial artist [..]inz Hoffmann's *Wehrsport[..] Hoffmann*, Friedhelm Busse's [..] is no newcomer to the right-wing [..]ist scene in either Bavaria or the [..]al Republic of Germany.

[..]se's group has achieved nationwide [..]iety by being almost certainly as[..]ed with a shoot-out with the police [..] Munich suburb.

[..]viously it had no more than gained [..]ntion in reports by the security [..]rities and in the local sections of [..]h newspapers.

[..]se and his VSBD were long dis[..]d by officialdom as of no real im[..]ace. So was Hoffmann, who now [..]s accused of murdering Shlomo [..], a Jewish publisher, and his com[..]n.

[..]ho is Friedhelm Busse, what sup[..] does he have and what are his con[..]ons? He is a compositor and printer [..]ade and lives in Neubiberg, Mu[..], not far from where the shoot-out [..] place.

[..]e runs a printing shop in Neubi[..]. He was born in 1929 and claims to [..] left the GDR after taking part in [..] 1953 uprising.

[..]me years later he was first men[..]ed in police records in the Federal [..]ublic, where he has two convictions: [..] for being an accessary to abduction, [..]ther for a breach of the Explosives [..]t.

[..]n 1965 he joined the National [..]ocrats. Busse, a stocky man with a [..]rous voice, soon became one of the [..]D's keenest public speakers.

[..]ter organising excesses against Mar[..] groups he was expelled from the [..]D in 1971 as too extremist.

[..] June 1971 he set up his own *Deut[..] Arbeiterpartei* in Krefeld, complete with a central committee and a magazine, *Die Dritte Republik*.

He first came to the fore as an organiser, on a wider scale, of the scattered bands of German Fascists in 1975 when he united about 30 organisations at Burg Rothenfels on the Main.

The National Forum of the People's Socialist Movement of Germany was set up, but initially did little more than sire a host of pathetic speeches and an avalanche of brochures, all printed by Busse.

They are little more than reprints of Nazi brochures with titles such as Working People Liberate Yourselves and anti-Semitic slogans.

Other causes Busse espouses are The (Berlin) Wall Must Go, Foreigners Go Home and An End to Sex at School.

He soon went over to openly attacking the democratic order, printing a brochure with the Goebbels title *Der Angriff* (The Attack).

For militant action he uses a youth group that goes by the name *Junge Front*. It mainly operates in Munich's East End, raiding left-wing bars in black rocker's gear with knives, clubs and an SS rune as its emblem.

The boys, almost all of whom are under 18, police enquiries reveal, enter a bar and announce that a *Reichsparteitag*, or party conference, is to be held, whereupon the guests are thrown out.

The Reichsparteitag invariably ends with Nazi songs and swastikas being daubed all over the place.

In September 1979 members of the Junge Front were seen wearing camouflage and arms and carrying out para-military exercises in a clay pit near Fürstenfeldbruck, Munich.

A Social Democratic member of the Bavarian state assembly tabled a question to Interior Minister Gerold Tandler, who said he felt it would be inopportune to pay undue attention to a group that was so politically insignificant.

Busse busily set up new local groups of his VSBD all over Germany and even in Austria. In April 1981 he and 10 members of the Junge Front were arrested on the Austrian border at Lindau and sent back to Germany.

Since May 1976 Busse has been banned from entering Austria, where he had demonstrated outside the house in Braunau where Hitler was born.

The Führer's birthday, the *Reichskristallnacht* (when Jewish property was raided and confiscated all over Germany in 1938) and the anniversary of Hitler's unsuccessful 1923 Munich *putsch* are regularly celebrated.

Speeches are made, demonstrations held and wreaths laid. Busse even has his own Horst Wessel, a youthful martyr by the name of Frank Schubert.

"He was a big, strong boy who immediately attracted me," says Busse. This may well have been true. Whether he was a martyr is another matter.

On Christmas Eve last year Schubert was caught by the Swiss customs trying to smuggle arms across the Rhine in an inflatable boat.

Two Swiss customs officers were killed and two injured in a shoot-out. Schubert then took his life.

He certainly earned the VSBD a sad notoriety, as Bavarian Interior Minister Tandler put in at a conference in Tutzing last April.

Police enquiries had revealed that neo-Nazi organisations were trying to procure arms in Switzerland. In the state assembly the SPD called for a ban on

Friedhelm Busse (Photo: dpa)

the VSBD; Herr Tandler said the Bonn Interior Ministry and the Federal Constitutional Court were responsible.

Within a year the group's hard core membership had increased to about 1,000. Little is known about sympathisers, except that an *Auslandsorganisation*, or foreign department, has been set up, also along Nazi lines.

In January 1981 when Schubert was buried in Frankfurt, Busse told 30 youngsters in black who attended the funeral that their aim must be to avenge his death.

Quoting a convenient classic he proclaimed that they must be ready to seize power or to die in the cause of honour.

In August 1981 forty right-wing extremists were arrested after fighting in the city centre of Hanover, where they planned to set up a state unit of the VSBD.

They included 10 men from Munich, six British Rhine Army soldiers from Munster and a Frenchman. Busse was also in Hanover but got off scot-free.

His next move is almost certain to be on 9 November, the anniversary of Hitler's 1923 *putsch*.

*Karl Stankiewitz*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 October 1981)

# Right-wing resurgence

For years right-wing extremism in the Federal Republic has been dismissed as either harmless or insignificant. The latest trends indicate that it is a mistake to allow neo-Nazis too much rope.

Politicians and public opinion have been warned by para-military exercises held all over the country by right-wing splinter groups with usually juvenile support.

The best-known instance was that of Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, whose 'volunteers', strictly disciplined, held mock manoeuvres in the forests of Bavaria.

Hoffmann was inordinately proud of the old tank he had parked outside his front door.

When his *Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann* was banned in January 1980, Bavarian Interior Minister Gerold Tandler felt the countrywide ban was not primarily warranted on security grounds.

Hoffmann in his view was not a serious threat to the security of the state. His public appearances damaged the country's reputation abroad, and that was the main reason why the ban had been necessary.

Times have changed. Hoffmann is now in custody on a murder charge and the number of neo-Nazis under scrutiny and coming up before the courts is on the increase.

Supporters of the *Volkssozialistische Bewegung Deutschlands/Partei der Arbeit*, run by Friedhelm Busse, 52, from Bochum, have occupied the security authorities for some time.

Busse claims his organisation has 1,000 members; the *Verfassungsschutz*, or Office for the Protection of the Constitution, reckons he can only muster 90.

In public Busse tries to create the impression of being a peaceful citizen, but prior to his arrest he was involved in arms deals and in forging links with neo-Nazi groups abroad.

He also set up a youth group, the *Junge Front*, which likewise had overseas contacts, claimed to be a national revolutionary cadre organisation and was scathing of democratic politicians.

Last year four *Junge Front* members stood honour guard outside the Feldherrnhalle in Munich on the anniversary of Hitler's 9 November 1923 *putsch*.

They laid two wreaths inscribed with the names of the heroes, as they chose to call the men who died in Hitler's unsuccessful coup.

Busse has come to the authorities' notice on several occasions for glorifying Hitler as an outstanding figure in history and for openly endorsing certain passages from *Mein Kampf*.

His VSBD/PdA publishes a magazine, *Der bayerische Löwe* (The Bavarian Lion), with a lion holding a Celtic cross as its emblem.

Other right-wing organisations active in Bavaria include the NPD and its various organisations, the Deutsche Volksunion and groups calling for an embargo on immigration, the Viking Youth and others.

Last year the security authorities registered 29 right-wing extremist groups with roughly 4,300 members in Bavaria. There is little to choose between them.

They all endorse racist ideas and are strongly opposed to foreign residents and applicants for political asylum. They all say Germany was not to blame for the Second World War.

They doubt whether the Nazis tried to exterminate the Jews. They will have nothing to do with democracy. They aim to model society and state on the *Führer* principle.

Unlike left-wing urban guerrillas, they may lack funds and a uniform strategy as yet and have yet to gain wider influence. But their activities must be closely monitored, says the annual report of the *Verfassungsschutz*.

Herr Tandler readily admits: "We just don't know much of what goes on among extremists."

*Gabriele Reitner-Halder*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 23 October 1981)

**■ INDUSTRY**

# Steel price rise will be smaller and later

In a sudden about-face, Bonn has now given its blessing to the steel industry's postponing intended price increases.

Instead of raising the per ton price by DM140 as of 1 January 1982, the price increases will amount to DM100 per ton and will not become effective until 1 July.

This has put an end — at least for the time being — to the dispute between the steel producers and their customers, the steel processors.

But then, the dispute seemed to be over once before when the steel mills and the Federation of the Iron and Steel Processing Industry (AVI) agreed on postponing by one month a price increase of DM50 per ton that should have come into effect on 1 October.

Yet even before the new prices had come into effect the steel producers, who are part of the Eurofer cartel, unanimously decided on 17 September to increase their prices again as of January 1982. A cartel spokesman said that the prices would remain in effect for the whole first six months of 1982 and that Eurofer members were determined to take all necessary steps to ensure that the new prices are applied by all.

German steel mills were sure of Bonn backing in this move. After all, they had only just been criticised by the Chancellor and the Economic Affairs Minister for having postponed their price hike from October to November.

This might seem unique, especially in view of the fact that it was usually Bonn that opposed price increases — so much so that back in 1957 Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard summoned Germany's steel executives to Bonn and put them on the carpet for intended price hikes. The state-owned Salzgitter concern was put under pressure not to go along with higher prices.

The fact that Bonn now reacted in exactly the opposite way is easily explained. In view of the financial straits in which the steel industry finds itself, there is every likelihood that it might become a burden on the state.

Only if profits are made will Bonn not have to subsidise the steel industry on a grand scale, as other European governments do.

The subsidies would be necessary if jobs were to be preserved in regions that are economically weak anyway. It was this consideration that prompted Bonn to welcome the price hikes.

The steel processors refused to be intimidated by Bonn's backing for the steel mills.

Though the ten steel processors' associations that make up the AVI are dominated by large firms, smaller member-companies are bound to rally around the Federation when the need arises.

Though Bonn might be reluctant to take the word of such major steel processors as Volkswagen, Daimler-Benz, MAN and Siemens, it is likely to listen to the arguments of medium-sized companies who say that the extent and the quick sequence of price increases endanger their competitiveness.

Says one steel magnate ironically: "The argument that the medium-sized companies are in their death throes has not failed to impress us either."

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff offered to mediate in the dispute and a few days ago he met the steel executives and a delegation of processors headed by VW's Horst Münzner, listening to the arguments of both sides.

The Minister then suggested that the opposing parties sit down at the bargaining table and talk it out. So the poker game continued. The steel makers offered to freeze the prices that were to come into effect on 1 January for a full year rather than for six months as originally planned.

But the AVI refused to go along.

It was finally agreed to take out three days to think the matter over. At the end of that period the steel makers presented their offer: list prices for rolled steel to go up, as originally announced, by DM140 per ton as of 1 January 1982.

To make it easier for the processors, who face tough competition from abroad, to adjust to the new prices, the steel makers will grant them a temporary discount of DM40 per ton for the first quarter of 1982.

The discount is to be reduced to DM20 per ton for the second quarter, and the full price increase of DM140 per ton is to be paid on shipments after 1 July 1982.

Steel makers promised to hold their prices until at least 1 October 1982, provided nothing unexpected increased their own production costs.

This temporary discount is a bitter pill for the steel makers to swallow. Taking into account that they sell about 1.3 million tons of rolled steel a month domestically and in the other EEC countries (which also benefit from the discount), their earnings in the first quarter will show a monthly shortfall of about DM52m in the first quarter and of DM26m a month in the second quarter — a total of DM234m. This would be a whacking amount even for a booming branch of industry.

But it is doubtful whether the steel manufacturers would really have been able to come up with these additional earnings had they stuck to their original price increases.

Though their competitors in Europe promised to stick by the new prices, the EEC is not the only steel producer.

The market is flooded by steel makers from many countries who are already formidable competitors abroad and who have ensured that German exporters earn less on foreign markets than they do at home.

Any price increase in Germany therefore makes the Geman market more attractive to them. Thyssen's Heinz Kriwet therefore sees steel imports at higher price levels as a latent danger in 1982.

Though Germany must import some of its steel for reasons of quality and because foreign companies produce certain types of steel that are unavailable here, every imported ton is a painful business.

The steel processors are naturally aware of this and are using the threat of imports as a trump card.

The steel industry has noted with considerable relief that the AVI intends to remain faithful rather than look abroad for suppliers.

One spokesman for the steel makers: "The German steel industry continues to attach great importance to its cooperation with the AVI so that it can continue to supply the processors to the advantage of all concerned."

Decoded, this means: the steel industry hopes that the processors will not increase the quota of imported steel.

Naturally, the AVI cannot guarantee this because it is only a loose association and, as its manager, Günter Schmidt, puts it: "We're not even a registered club." But the steel makers would be satisfied if the AVI were to issue a recommendation to that effect to its 2[...] members. As one steel executive pu[...] "Our past experience with such [...] ommendations has been good."

But the same executive also kn[...] that a war with the AVI is not imp[...] ible: "All you need is for two or thre[...] the big users to gang together and [...] on one steel producer to be left ou[...] the cold."

The steel processors appreciate [...] fact that the steel prices in the pas[...] years were reasonable, but they are [...] gered at the extent and quick sequ[...] of increases now.

They are also miffed about the [...] that the steel industry, backed by [...] man and European authorities, suc[...] ed in forming a cartel while Ge[...] anti-trust authorities keep a close [...] on any mergers in the steel proce[...] industry.

The steel makers themselves a[...] that the quick succession of price [...] is deplorable. But they also hold that [...] increases themselves are inadeq[...] pointing to Japanese and Amer[...] prices which are to go up even mor[...] of 1 January.

According to the steel indus[...] figures, steel prices in Germany [...] about one-third more than in the US[...]

The steel makers say that the la[...] price increases are not enough to of[...] past losses, estimated at DM2bn si[...] the second half of 1980.

In any event, by sticking to the ori[...] nal list prices (the prices have not b[...] lowered; only a discount on the [...] creased prices has been granted) the [...] cond half of next year should permit [...] industry to break even.

And so it must if the state is to co[...] up with guarantees as Krupp is trying [...] induce it to do.

To enable Krupp Stahl AG to proc[...] with planned investments on sched[...] it has asked the state of North Rhi[...] Westphalia to guarantee credits to [...] tune of DM260m.

*Heinz-Günter Kemme[...]*
(Die Zeit, 9 October 19[...])

# Hoesch, Krupp wait for welder's torch

A merger between Hoesch in Dortmund and Krupp in Bochum is far from signed, sealed and delivered, though certain parties have tried to create that impression.

The idea — born of necessity — of a marriage between the two steel giants in North Rhine-Westphalia is past the preliminary stages but the drafting of the marriage contract will take some time — primarily because of considerable differences of views and the interference of relatives.

Meanwhile, the public is being entertained with rumours and speculation.

The rumour of the moment has it that the marriage is to become a menage à trois if Salzgitter boss Piper gets his way.

There can be no North Rhine-Westphalian solution in overcoming the German steel crisis. Yet the inclusion of companies outside that state in a cartel would hamper rather than promote the rehabilitation process.

North Rhine-Westphalia's economic affairs minister, Reimut Jochimsen, says is high time to come to an agreement.

Hoesch and Krupp each have their own rehabilitation recipe, and each of them, looked at separately, seems sound. If they were not, the works councils and the trade unions would hardly have given their go-ahead.

But if both plans were to be realised stepped-up and possibly ruinous competition would ensue. Each of the concerns wants to shut down obsolete operations and expand those sectors where they hope to find a ready market.

The fact that both companies would like to introduce the same type of specialised steel producing equipment is only superficially a point of friction.

Whether theoreticians like it or not, German steel only has a future if the mammoths continue to merge and if they create cartels that can weather any competition.

The wedding that is likely to take place will not be of the kind where both partners endow it with all their possessions.

The only feasible merger is one in which steel production and parts of the steel processing sectors are combined. And this can only be achieved by sharing burdens and advantages.

This is one of the main difficulties in the rehabilitation process because neither Hoesch nor Krupp can cope with additional burdens without being unburdened elsewhere.

The fact that Krupp recently asked the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to guarantee loans to the tune of DM260m shows what its financial position is. This makes it obvious that there will be some tough bargaining when it comes to [...] ranging the distribution of burdens a[...] advantages in case of a merger.

Should the project materialise Hoesc[...] Karsten Rohwedder is likely to be laud[...] as the master rehabilitator. And there c[...] be no underestimating the fact that [...] was Rohwedder who resisted the dem[...] for "a steel plant now" because this [...] velopment was not only due to rel[...] tance on the part of the Dutch Es[...] concern, which was to provide the cap[...] tal, to breed competitors within its o[...] concern on this side of the border.

The rehabilitation concepts of Hoe[...] and Krupp provide for layoffs of a to[...] of 11,000 staff members.

Dortmund Bundestag MP Hans Ur[...] niak even goes so far as to speak [...] 40,000 redundancies in the steel indus[...] over the next four years (on a natio[...] wide scale).

The okay of works councils and tra[...] unions for these job-destroying ration[...] sation measures was made contingent [...] the commitment of politicians to m[...] an all-out effort to create replacem[...] jobs.

As in the case of individual com[...] nies, a national solution of the s[...] crisis is impossible without governm[...] assistance.

But it is more than doubtful whet[...] the investment subsidies agreed to [...] Bonn and Düsseldorf so far will be [...] ough. Even Jochimsen doubts that

Continued on page 7



**[BU]SINESS**

# Co-operatives: when the staff foots the bill to bail out the firm

[...] hand Wilhelm Deckel no [...] feels he is just an employee. [...] his workmates have invested [...] in the company, a Bad Ber[...] furniture manufacturer, to keep it [...] and on a sound economic [...]

[...] are not just staff but also, to a [...] extent, the management, or at [...] owners of their firm.

[...] longer work exclusively for [...] also, as I used to do," Deckel [...] have a part-share in the company [...] profits."

[...] is why he is more willing than [...] to be to report weak links in [...] company's organisation. "It pays," he [...] he means it pays him perso[...]

[...] and his colleagues are not the [...] factory workers who are also fac[...] owners, and not just because the [...] owner decided it was time his [...] earned a share in the company.

[...] most cases workers have become [...] its because their cash was needed [...] management at its wits' end for [...] with which to keep the company [...] the red, or at least still trading.

[...] happened in Berleburg was ty[...] of the usual course of events. One [...] more or less out of the blue, [...] management held a staff meeting at [...] the workers were told the firm [...] poor shape financially.

[...] some cases the receivers were [...] because the company was [...] But the factory was not inva[...] closed down.

[...] number of receivers, not to men[...] outgoing owners, did their best to [...] that a new foundation was laid [...] factory that was worth keeping [...]

[...] way that frequently came to [...] was to ask the staff to lend finan[...] support in a situation where the [...] were reluctant to shoulder the [...] some cases redundancy payments [...] old company were used to estab[...] new one. In others the staff of a [...] in financial difficulties even [...] their personal savings as capital [...] new firm.

[...] rule they then acquired a majori[...] holding in the new company.

[...] companies put back on their feet [...] way seldom bear comparison [...] the better-known models of staff [...] ship or co-ownership.

[...] almost invariably a case of last-[...] rescue bids. Survival of the com[...] and its jobs was what was at issue, [...] well-meaning schemes to create [...] in the workers' hands or to give [...] greater say in running their com[...] Many members of staff would have [...] unemployment and social decline [...] had not invested their savings in [...] scheme.

[...] workers especially would usually [...] been hard hit by the collapse of [...] company, which was often the only [...] employer for miles around.

[...] had worked in the factory for [...] and built homes of their own [...] They and their families had their [...] there.

[...] economic survival is often the [...] motive, the company structure of [...] firms is frequently unchanged. [...] members of staff are only too [...] to be able to carry on as before.

Few if any of them feel any inclination to have their say in how the company is run or to play at being boss.

Many worker-shareholders would prefer to retain the hierarchical structures to which they are accustomed. They want to carry on being able to look to a boss who tells them what to do.

Setting up a staff-owned company is difficult for legal reasons even when the staff are willing to provide the capital investment needed to float the new company.

The chief problem is that new companies can often not take over their predecessors' means of production because debtors have first claim on them.

Forging links with the authorities, with fresh sources of cash and with employers' associations proves hard work.

"Whoever would want to have anything to do with such an uncommon category of company as the staff-owned firm?" a manager of one such company sadly asks.

Another managing director says that his toughest problem is that of finding suitable management personnel.

Works councils, on the other hand, are usually more than willing to back the new idea. Their jobs too are at stake, of course.

The trade unions likewise lend a hand now and again, although in principle they are unenthusiastic about employees who are their own employers.

But in such cases the first consideration is to save jobs that are in jeopardy. So in one instance a staff-owned company reached unofficial agreement with the works council and the unions that there would be no strikes at the new company for years to come.

In return the company undertook not to sack existing staff as part of rationalisation schemes.

It was unable to keep to its side of the bargain, as it turned out, because that would have called the rescue bid into question and jeopardised the capital raised by the staff.

Lip, the French watch and clock manufacturers, are probably the best-known example of a company taken over by its staff.

The Besancon company ran into financial difficulties in 1973 and the factory was taken over by the staff, who were given coverage and sympathy both at home and abroad.

Lip have had trouble since, including a second bankruptcy, but things are now looking up. The former watch factory has been converted into an assembly works run as a workers' cooperative with the aid of government loans.

Staff take-overs in the Federal Republic of Germany, unlike the Lip saga, have not been accompanied by street fighting, and usually cash has not been supplied by the government either.

Walther Electronics in Gerstetten, for instance, bought for DM6.5m the facilities of the original office machinery coompany that went bankrupt in 1974.

The new company has DM5m in capital, initially including DM3.4m in redundancy money held in trust for 1,200 members of staff of the old company.

The remainder was raised, the present company says, by a number of computer specialists. The staff still hold a DM2.7m stake in the company.

Füssener Textil AG are another company that only survived with the aid of capital invested by company staff, having been reborn out of the ruins of Hanfwerke Füssen-Immenstadt AG.

The original company was part of the Glöggler textiles group, which used to be the largest in Germany. The Füssen works was the parent unit of Hans Glöggler's operations.

Glöggler went to the wall in 1976, leaving about 900 jobs threatened by redundancy in Füssen.

An interim company was set up to salvage part of the operations and on 1 January 1979 the staff took over a near-majority shareholding in their firm.

The staff's percentage of the DM9.4m in capital was 47, with 32 per cent being held by the local savings bank and the remainder by customers and suppliers.

There was also a DM2.3m government grant and DM800,000 from the Federal Labour Office.

As a result 550 jobs were saved, and 300 members of staff are now shareholders in the company, which is stock market-listed.

One of the oldest staff-owned companies is Glashütte Süssmuth, a glassworks in Immenhausen, near Kassel.

Ten years ago Richard Süssmuth, the owner, was deep in debt. Reluctant to abandon to its fate a company that had been his life's work, he made it over to his staff, numbering 250.

The works was then given nicknames suggesting it was Communist-run or run along socialist lines. But the staff were unperturbed by such insinuations.

After many trials and tribulations the glassworks was converted into a staff-owned foundation at the beginning of 1977, with the foundation holding the company's DM180,000 in capital.

Two years later the staff agreed to allow a partner to invest in the company. Neuguss Verwaltungs GmbH of Bochum thereupon took over a half-share in the glassworks for DM250,000.

The Bochum company runs the business operations left behind by hydraulics specialist Rexroth, an owner who had introduced many social innovations in his company.

Emag, a mechanical engineering company in Salach, has made fewer headlines than either Glöggler or Süssmuth.

Emag, a medium-sized company with a payroll of 160, ran into trouble after growing too fast and having to invest too heavily in a new line.

In 1975 ninety members of the staff set up a new company alongside four sales representatives and two suppliers as shareholders.

One reason why so little is known about the progress of staff-owned companies is that many are family firms and both old-fashioned and unaccustomed to publicity.

Their corporate successors are similarly reluctant to allow outsiders to see how they are faring under new management.

Thus little is known about Matrei, an engineering firm in Austria, or Tübinger Chronik, the printers of *Schwäbisches Tageblatt*.

Alfred Teufel, the Nagold manufacturer of ventilation and refrigeration equipment, is known only to have made a gift of the firm to 50 of his faithful members of staff at the beginning of 1976.

Many staff-owned firms have quietly been reconverted into conventional companies. In 1975 about 60 employees of Böseler Metallbau in Bösel, near Cloppenburg, set up a company to take over the firm, which had gone bankrupt.

The new company lasted only three years under staff ownership. Then it was taken over by what the firm calls a conventional entrepreneur, a Krefeld family.

The main reason is usually that staff cannot raise enough capital to keep the company going satisfactorily in the long run.

Yet they have still managed, by investing their savings, to bail the company out of financial difficulties and keep it and their jobs going.

Not all staff-owned companies succeed. Beku Beton- und Kunsteisenwerk in Thüngersheim is a case in point.

The company went bankrupt in 1971 and was to have been salvaged by a staff company backed by such well-known names as Hanns-Heinz Porst, the photographic goods magnate, Klaus Hoppmann, the Siegen Opel main dealer, and the Carl Backhaus Foundation.

But the rescue bid failed. Five years later the company was liquidated once and for all. It had been launched with too little capital and had made management misjudgements.

Another failure has even featured in a book, *Der Fall B.* (The B. Affair), which describes the decline and fall of Bammesberger Maschinenfabrik in Leonberg.

The company had to call in the receiver in 1975 when the state government in Stuttgart failed to provide a loan facility even though the staff had raised DM2.1m to keep the firm going.

The hapless payroll had not been told that the company was 10 times deeper in debt.

*Viktor Paul*
(Die Zeit, 9 October 1981)

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already decided 10 per cent subsidy will be sufficient.

The same goes for North Rhine-Westphalia's demand for a special siting programme for the steel industry. This, too, cannot be restricted to the Rhine and Ruhr industrial regions.

Such a programme requires not only approval by Bonn but must also find a majority in the Bundesrat, which means that five more *Länder* must go along — and this would include *Länder* that have nothing to do with the steel industry and its crisis.

Even more important than this complicated political approach to the problem is the attitude the banks will adopt. They have already been keeping the ailing steel industry going.

To make matters worse, the banks are involved in an extensive rehabilitation programme for AEG, with uncertain prospects of success. The patient's fever is rising steadily while huge amounts of money are tied up in the rehabilitation programme. And the steel giants would have to have at least the same amount in bank loans.

Since bankers are not only discreet but usually also cautious, the steel marriage will not be preceded by any fanfare. The banks want to make sure that their match-making activities go unnoticed and that they are viewed as mere bystanders.

*Diether Loewe*
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 18 October 1981)

■ TECHNOLOGY

# Electronic data processors head office equipment boom

Electronic data processing equipment is leading an almost unprecedented boom in the office equipment industry despite the general slump.

Production figures in 1980 were up 16 per cent over 1979, and the trend this year is similar.

Only about 20 per cent of the increased business is because of conventional office equipment.

The demand reflects the transition from a production to an information society.

Almost half Germany's labour force works in offices. No other place of work has been changing as fast.

New technologies and work processes, new equipment and safety regulations are endless.

An office equipment show, *büro-data Berlin 81*, shows just what changes there have been.

The organisers, the Work Group for Office Equipment and Information Technology of the Federation of Iron, Machinery and Apparatus Construction (WEMA) and the Association of the Office Equipment and Furniture Trade, hold the show every two years.

Even a cursory stroll through the exhibition halls shows the enormous progress in the field of micro-processors, micro-computers and office technology in general.

There is hardly a single item that has




not come up with improved handling and operation.

The micro-processor itself is no more than a bare calculator. It turns into a micro-computer by equipping it with such input devices as keyboards and output devices such as terminals in the form of screens.

The classical typewriter now presents itself minus its keyboard.

Named printer, it is now an output device. The dividing line between calculating and writing has also been done away with.

Word processors, says Professor Klaus-Rüdiger Fellbaum of Berlin, must be seen as a type of data processing since correction, insertion and storage operations are comparable to arithmetical and other data processing operations.

The individual exhibits in Berlin still centre around word, figure and data processing plus office furniture and stationery; but there is no clear dividing line.

Many micro-computers now have editor programmes that turn them into incredibly easily-operated typewriters.

The written text first appears on a monitor screen where typing errors can be corrected, missing words inserted and superfluous ones deleted. The whole thing is termed "word processing."

More sophisticated editor programmes enable the operator to rearrange segments of texts or to combine stored text segments to form a complete letter. This is best described as "module texts."

Another memory bank provides the needed addresses. The completed letter can then be written by the printing device that is hooked up to the installation.

The micro-computer can write the same letter to all desired recipients.

The Federal postal authority is about to start its Teletex service. The cables for this service will be hooked up to the telephone network. Practical tests are already in progress, and here is how the system will operate:

Once a letter has been put together with the help of a micro-processor, the sender simply dials the telephone number of the recipent and pushes the transmit button. The dialled number and the text of the letter are fed into an electronic device which keeps dialling the receiver's number until there is a reply.

The text is then transmitted at the rate of 300 letters per second, approximately 40 times the speed of today's telex machines which, incidentally, have the disadvantage of a limited [...] symbols and letters.

The Teletex service, on the [...] hand, will not only contain all cha[...] and symbols of a normal typewri[...] a wide range of additional symb[...] well.

The receiver learns from his [...] processor controlled computer tha[...] is a letter for him. As soon as [...] time to deal with it he has the [...] the letter flashed onto a monitor [...]

This comes very close to an [...] without paper — especially in [...] the fact that the micro-process[...] also handle complete card indexe[...] and archives.

Naturally, among the exhibits [...] Berlin show there also the tra[...] invoicing machines, typewriters a[...] processing equipment. But they [...] triggered a feeling of nostalgia [...] classical office, although they sti[...] their place in the new generati[...] offices.

On show were also pocket [...] computers that can be progra[...] while computing and that later fe[...] programme into the office comput[...]

It was no coincidence that th[...] processing giant IBM for the first [...] presented a micro-computer at th[...] lin show. After all, the smalle[...] cheaper a computer the wider the [...] of potential customers.

A micro-computer that can be ho[...] up to the colour TV set at home c[...] had for less than DM400. Though [...] device was not shown in Berlin [...] price guarantees that there will [...] great many buyers — and not [...] among the business community.

*Walter B[...]*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 October [...])

# Robots before breakfast ... a peep into the future

Will the year 2000 see us waking up to a friendly robot voice rather than the shrill ringing of the alarm clock? And will we be able to turn on the shower by simply saying: "Shower... 35 degrees!" without bothering to as much as touch the taps?

This is the sort of scenario which Helmut Mangold of the AEG-Telefunken Research Institute envisages.

He told a press meeting organised by his company in Ulm about typewriters that will take down dictation without anybody touching the keyboard and traffic guidance systems that feed the driver vocal information about the best and shortest route to his destination in a clearly intelligible language.

And naturally, instructions to computers will be given by casual speech rather than by hitting a keyboard.

Even those without programming experience will be able to tell the computer what they expect of it and receive the reply verbally, confirmed in writing if so desired.

There is nothing utopian about such ideas. We already have pocket computers that can translate individual words into any preselected foreign language, pronouncing them correctly.

A German mail order company handles bulk orders by a computer that responds by speech and confirms the orders or tells the operator that they cannot be executed for one reason or another.

When its task is finished, the computer politely says: "Thank you and byebye."

A computer named "Karlchen" has been doing a yeoman's job for the German Railway System for the past two years. Karlchen is the world's most sophisticated timetable information system. All the traveller has to do is tell the computer his destination, whereupon Karlchen will answer him, giving him the quickest and best connections.

All this marks only the beginning of a world-wide development in the course of which machines are being developed that understand human speech and respond in it.

In this country, it is the telecommunications department of the German Postal Service that is progressing in great strides towards speaking computers. Similar work is in progress at AEG-Telefunken research facilities.

The research work now concentrates on two major aspects:

- Man-computer communication through the spoken word could break down the barrier between man and machine. No specialised knowledge is needed to make full use of such speaking computers.
- Society, with its growing information starvation, is finding it increasingly difficult (for reasons of personnel and cost) to provide reliable information in all fields, no matter how specialised.

A telling example of this information bottleneck is the constant engaged signal of the telephone information service in this country.

Existing facilities — and this includes the speaking pocket computer and Karlchen — are inadequate in doing justice to the task.

These devices are still unable to respond to any voice. Instead, they usually respond only to the voice they are specifically geared to and their vocabulary is still limited.

When they do speak, they use the sounds taken from, say, a newscaster and stored in the computer's memory bank. In other words: sounds, syllables or words that can best be described as a semi-synthetic language.

It is here, however, Helmut Mangold told the newsmen, that a significant breakthrough has been achieved.

David Stall, an American mathematician, then demonstrated to the press his recently completed fully synthesised speaking computer, a device about the size of a video recorder.

The computer, which goes under the name of SPRAUS-VS, is operated by a normal terminal with keyboard and gives its answers via a loudspeaker with human-sounding speech.

The important element of SPRAUS-VS, Stall told the newsmen, lies in the fact that the speech no longer consists of processed elements of the human voice but is an electronic imitation of the frequency range of speech. This enables the speaking device to articulate any German-language word whatsoever.

The quality of any fully synthesised speaking device largely depends on the perfection with which it electronically imitates the medley of frequencies created by the various inflections of the human voice, especially the transitional sounds.

It is these sounds that make or [...] any attempt at creating synthetic sp[...]

After all, when speaking we do [...] pronounce individual letters separ[...] as for instance in the word "dom[...] but as a flowing sound.

To complicate matters further, [...]itional sounds differ depending [...] which vowels and consonants fo[...] each other. Moreover, the volume [...] speed of speech also play a role.

The automatic recognition of sp[...] is plagued by the same problem [...] reverse. Here, too, a wide range [...] speech frequencies provides the pos[...]ity of electronically decoding sylla[...] words and, ultimately, complete s[...]tences.

The trouble is that the vast vocab[...] of a language provides an astronom[...] number of varieties.

Still the Acoustic Data Memory [...]tem (or ADES for short) that [...] Zielinski presented at the Ulm [...] conference is capable of recognisin[...] individually spoken letters of the [...]bet, figures, symbols and a numb[...] commands and responding to them.

Unfortunately, this robot resp[...] only to his master's voice, in this [...] Zielinski.

Newsmen who tried to fool ADES [...] speaking some letters or figures into [...] microphone were mostly out of luck.

Only when the voice and diction [...]sely resembled that of Zielinski di[...] robot respond correctly.

Naturally, the robot can be [...]grammed to respond to any given [...] All it needs is specimens of the [...] speech and vocabulary.

*Dieter Die[...]*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 Octob[...])



ENVIRONMENT

# Recycling: it pays to advertise

DIE WELT

[...]er the past seven years the waste [...]xchange run by the Standing Con[...]e of Chambers of Commerce and [...]ry (DIHT) has handled nearly [...] offers and more than 5,600 re[...] for waste suitable for recycling.

[...]re have been 39,000 enquiries in [...]se to the "wanted" and "on offer" [...] in chamber magazines, all from [...]anies keen to buy or sell waste.

[...]cks last year showed that more [...] one in four manufacturers with [...] on offer were able to find a cus[...] and more than one "wanted" ad[...]ement in three came up with the [...]t required.

[...] Wolff von Amerongen, president [...] DIHT, feels it to be particularly [...]tant that the exchange scheme has [...] many companies swapping their [...] regularly with others in exchange [...]-products they can put to use. [...]ste dealers have also made use of [...]market opportunities, buying small [...] and offering larger quantities for [...] manufacturer or processer.

[...] DIHT scheme also provides for [...]ation free of charge of offers and [...]s relayed by chambers of com[...] and industry in Austria, Switzer[...] Northern Italy and France.

[...]many leads the world in recycling, [...] Wolff von Amerongen, and has [...] so since long before the Club of [...] popularised the idea some years [...]

[...]cycling in Germany dates back to [...]rn of the century when the Sie[...]-Martin smelting process came into [...]n.

[...] waste metal alone the DIHT exchange has handled 2,200 offers and 1,200 enquiries, to which 4,000 replies were received.

An estimated 700,000 tonnes of tin plate a year go into domestic dustbins. Only a third or so is recycled, but the quantity reclaimed is increasing fast.

"In 1976/77," says Wolff von Amerongen, "roughtly 100,000 tonnes of tin plate were recycled. By 1980 the figure had increased to 200,000 tonnes."

Between 1974 and 1980 the quantity of glass similarly reclaimed increased from 150,000 to 492,000 tonnes.

Over the past 30 years the proportion of waste paper reused in paper and board manufacture has increased from 30 to over 42 per cent.

In 1950 the figure was 414,000 tonnes of waste paper. Last year the quantity recycled amounted to 2.3 million tonnes.

In the chemical industry recycling is virtually part of the manufacturing process. The processing of solvents and used oil are but two instances.

Last year more than 300,000 tonnes of plastic were recycled. Reclaimed granules of plastic can be reused in full, the DIHT says.

Yet in many cases plastic waste for recycling is exported to Italy because German industrial standards do not allow recycled plastic to be used.

The finished products made in Italy from waste plastic shipped from Germany are then resold in the Federal Republic.

*Hans-Jürgen Mahnke*

(Die Welt, 12 October 1981)

# Toxic trash

The contents of domestic dustbins are growing deadlier, the Bonn Interior Ministry says in a written reply to a Bundestag question tabled by the CDU/CSU Opposition.

One reason is the increasing amount of chemicals and old paint left over from do-it-yourself work and gardening.

Old medicine, flat batteries and cleansing agents also increase the amount of toxic substances in German dustbins, Bonn says.

The Ministry points out that some harmful substances are collected separately. They include old oil and spent batteries.

Car tyres are usually taken in exchange by dealers, garages or filling stations, while old and unwanted medicine can in many areas be turned in to pharmacists or charitable associations.

The Ministry is to redouble its efforts to recycle waste and to reduce the amount of packaging that gets thrown away. Amendments to the Waste Disposal Act are to be tabled during the life of the current Bundestag.

*dpa*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 October 1981)

# Sewage farm to heat town hall

Arthur Schultheiss, head of Waiblingen, Württemberg, civil engineering department, had his bright idea at the local sewage farm one fine winter's day.

What a pity, he thought as he watched sludge in the septic tanks steaming away in the chilly winter air, that all that heat is allowed to go to waste!

Experts were called in, readings taken and plans drawn up. The public works committee recommended the council to go ahead with the scheme.

So from the year after next Waiblingen will be heating public buildings with process heat recycled from the municipal sewage works.

The idea is simplicity itself in principle. The town's sewage has a temperature of between 9 and 20 degrees centigrade. It is heated to 65 degrees by heat pump and then piped to public buildings 1.8km, just over a mile, away.

Herr Schultheiss and his staff have set about perfecting the system, starting with the heat pump, which is powered by methane from the sewage.

At the flick of a switch it can be converted to natural gas too, however, while the methane is also used to heat water to 90 degrees.

This is the water that is pumped to the civic buildings and their central heating units.

Money could also be saved in the way in which the heating was laid out, the Waiblingen brains trust decided. The heat is to be piped first to buildings that need heating at higher temperatures.

The heat that is still left in the pipes will then usually be enough to head neighbouring buildings that can make do with lower temperatures.

The first buildings to be heated from the municipal sewage will be the town hall, the civic centre and the public baths.

They are to be followed by the fire station, a school, the district hospital and a nearby housing estate.

The length of the piping is a major factor determining how economic the system will be. In Waiblingen everything is so central that heat loss should not amount to more than five degrees or so. The Baden-Württemberg Economic Affairs Ministry in Stuttgart is so keen on the idea that it is ready to subsidise the Waiblingen scheme as a pilot project.

That would cut investment costs to the town from DM8m to DM6m, but even without subsidies Herr Schultheiss says the installation would recoup costs within eight years.

From then it would operate at a profit and, given an estimated lifespan of 25 years for the heat pump, Waiblingen should net DM50m or more, depending on energy price trends.

*Carl-Josef Kutzbach*

(Die Zeit, 16 October 1981)

# Nuclear fuel 'no hazard'

[...]he Bonn government feels radioac[...]tive waste from nuclear power sta[...] can be satisfactorily disposed of [...] 1990, a report to the Bundestag [...]

[...]e report, On Waste Disposal from [...]ar Power Stations, has been circu[...] among members of the Bundes[...] home affairs committee.

[...]iled by the Bonn Interior Ministry, [...]tes that the proposed closed-circuit [...]el cycle is safe.

[...]e concept provides for intermediate [...]e and reprocessing of spent nuc[...] fuel and for treatment and final [...]e of other nuclear waste.

[...]til 1990, the report says, all spent [...] rods from German nuclear power [...]ns can either be sent abroad or sa[...] stored in facilities attached to the [...]idual power stations.

[...]e large intermediate storage facili[...] planned at Gorleben on the Elbe [...] Ahaus, near Münster, would provide [...]tional storage capacity.

[...]y would definitely be enough to [...] the companies that ran nuclear [...] stations to comply with the re[...]ment that they must be able to [...] at all times there was enough [...]ge space available for spent fuel [...] that were likely to accumulate over [...] next six years.

An administrative court in Stade has temporarily banned construction of the Gorleben intermediate storage facility, but the Bonn government does not feel this ban jeopardises nuclear waste disposal in any way.

"If need be," the report says, "the reasons for the ban given by the Stade court could be taken into account in such a way as to ensure that the facility is still available for waste disposal."

Bonn says intermediate storage of spent fuel rods can be safely continued for some time. It bases this view on a conclusion reached by the Reactor Safety Commission two years ago.

The commission's experts said there were no safety objections to the intermediate storage of spent fuel rods in drums "for at least 30 years."

By the end of 1984 the government is to invest DM60m in testing packaging methods to find out which is most suitable. Permanent storage rather than reprocessing might, for instance, be the best bet safetywise.

The report also comments on the various court rulings on compact storage of spent fuel rods in the grounds of nuclear power stations.

A Darmstadt court has ruled on compact storage at Biblis nuclear power station, near Mannheim, and a Munich court on the Isar nuclear power station, near the Bavarian capital.

The Darmstadt bench has given the go-ahead for compact storage for two years only, whereas the Munich court has agreed to compact storage for a longer period.

Bonn is convinced a nuclear waste reprocessing plant can be built swiftly even though the Hesse state government has ruled against one proposed location.

Hesse, the report says, reckons it will have reached a decision on a shortlist of locations by summer next year.

Planning permission to build the first stage of a reprocessing plant is expected to be given by 1985.

Bavaria, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Lower Saxony are said also to be prepared to provide a site for the facility.

The Gorleben salt deposits are felt to be suitable for permanent storage of radioactive waste. Their suitability can be expected to be confirmed as prospecting continues, Bonn claims.

Findings, so far, do not necessitate drilling in alternative locations, it is said.

*Gerda Strack*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 October 1981)

## BOOKS

# Frankfurt fare

Fortune telling has always boomed when times were hard and prospects uncertain, and there has been plenty of it at this year's Frankfurt book fair.

There were roughly 84,000 new titles at Frankfurt this year, so it looks as though the boom of the past few years is continuing in tune with a growing demand for books all over the world.

Yet more and more forecasts would have us believe that hard times lie ahead for publishers and booksellers.

More than 50,000 new titles a year are published in the Federal Republic of Germany.

But rumour would have it that quality has steadily deteriorated. In a nutshell, the complaint is that although there are plenty of books published there doesn't seem to be much worth reading.

Is this right? The Suhrkamp Verlag in Frankfurt, just one of the country's 1,400 or so publishers, this autumn has 5,000 pages of new fiction on its list.

This figure does not include previously unpublished minor work such as the letters of Brecht or Broch.

Nothing much worth reading? Can anyone seriously claim to have read even a third of Suhrkamp's autumn output yet, let alone that of Suhrkamp's major competitors?

No, no-one can claim anything of the kind, and since literary judgements are strictly subjective, no-one can possibly have others do the reading for him.

Oddly enough, the sheer number of titles available prompts commentators to dismiss tonnes of paper in two or three headings.

This is very much in keeping with the spirit of the age in which we live. The world grows more complex from one day to the next, yet more and more people console themselves with increasingly broad generalisations.

Much ado about nothing is a comment regularly heard at the book fair. Another evergreen is accompanied by a gesture of assumed dismay.

There are so many average or mediocre titles on offer, it is suggested, that good books hardly ever get a look in.

Yet to cut down the number of titles published would by no means ensure that the loss in quantity was offset by a gain in quality.

Besides, the output may sound impressive, but impressions can be deceptive. In specific subjects specialists are more likely to complain about gaps in the coverage provided.

Last year there were 54,572 new titles published in the Federal Republic, not including paperbacks. Of these 9,972, or 18.5 per cent, were fiction.

But fiction includes both Johannes Mario Simmel, a writer of middlebrow bestsellers, and Peter Handke, an altogether more ambitious and serious author.

Most of the fiction titles are strictly for entertainment. Few aim uncompromisingly at enriching the language, at reaching fresh heights of narrative achievement or at engaging in critical reflection.

Pegasus, the symbol of poetry, is on thin ice these days. Kiepenheuer & Witsch, the Cologne publishers, have published not a single book of poetry this autumn.

This comes as a surprise because they are ambitious in their literary programme, highly successful and held in high repute.

The glut of translations is deceptive too. Their number has more than doubled since 1962 but there are still many spots marked in white on the map.

Latin America, an enormous continent of fantasy and poetry, was poorly represented in German translation until the Frankfurt book fair concentrated on it as a main topic five years ago.

The situation has since improved, but German readers can only really be conversant with a handful of big-name authors from South America.

The writers they may have read in translation will be Borges from Argentina, Garcia Marquez from Colombia and Vargas Llosa from Peru.

That is as though Latin American readers had only translations of Heinrich Böll and Günter Grass by which to judge contemporary German literature.

Pessimists may say that is better than nothing, but it could hardly be described as a glut. What, for that matter, has happened to black African literature, highlighted at last year's book fair?

Publishers may have been keen to publish African writers last year, but their enthusiasm has not been sustained.

What, to take other examples, about Chinese literature, or Indian, Finnish, Hungarian or Italian writing?

In 1977, when the grand old man of Spanish poetry, Vicente Aleixandre, was awarded the Nobel prize for literature, not a single line of his poetry was available on the allegedly so plentiful German book market.

The situation was just as bad in 1979 when the Nobel prize went to Odysseas Elytis, the Greek writer.

Many a major author only sees the light of day in German translation when the Nobel prize committee decides to give him its accolade.

To make matters worse, public opinion, instead of being ashamed of its own ignorance, regularly turns up its nose at the idea of the Nobel prize being awarded to some weird and outlandish author or other.

This year the roles have been reversed. The 1981 Nobel laureate, Elias Canetti, writes in German. The award has been greeted outside the German-speaking world with a measure of embarrassment indicating that this ignorance is by no means limited to Germany.

Another point that must be scored against publishers is that they allow writers to go out of print merely because they are no longer the height of fashion.

They include many deserving authors who are not privileged to enjoy a reputation as modern classics in the way that Thomas Mann or Bertolt Brecht do.

Panait Istrati, the best-known modern Rumanian writer, was translated into German in the late 20s. Today he is out of print even though his tales are more colourful, more compelling and certainly more amusing than many a highly-praised modern author.

Eugen Gottlob Winkler was a superb pre-war essayist and short-story writer. He committed suicide in 1936. Not a line of his is still in print either.

Undoubtedly there are sound economic and marketing excuses, but both publishers' representatives and commentators really ought to stop talking about there being too many books in print.

Regardless whether they sound a warning note or are distressed by the phenomenon the truth of the matter is not that there are too many books in print; there are still far too few.

*Mathias Schreiber*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 October 1981)

# Recognition comes late for Nobel winner Canetti

Elias Canetti, the Bulgarian-born writer who lives in London and Zurich, is this year's Nobel literature laureate.

The Swedish academy awarded him the prize, worth 1m kronor (about DM400,000), "for writings marked by a broad outlook, a wealth of ideas and artistic power."

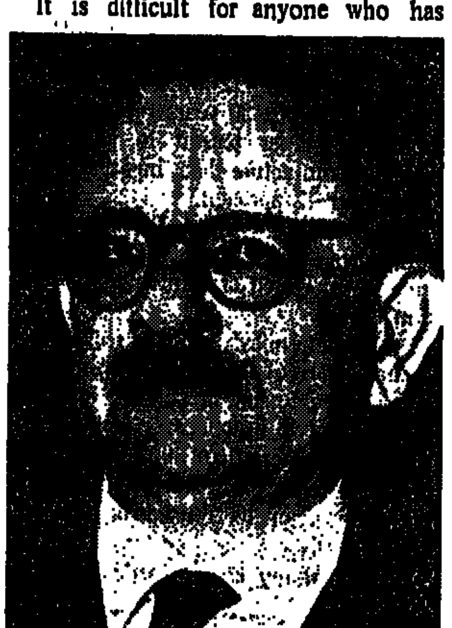
His native language was Spanish. He moved with his family to England when he was six. After his father died young, his mother moved to Vienna. Canetti writes in his third language, German.

"The exiled and cosmopolitan writer," the citation says, "has the German language for a home. He has remained faithful to it and often shown his love of the masterpieces of classic German culture.

"He has, for instance, urgently emphasised what Goethe means to him as a 'medicine of the mind.'"

It said his novel *Die Blendung* (Auto Da Fe), 1935, was his most important work of fiction. Canetti will be given the Nobel Prize in Stockholm on 10 December. He is 76.

It is difficult for anyone who has



Elias Canetti . . . 'medicine of the mind'

(Photo: Interpress/Hanser Verlag)

heard Canetti reading to appreciate that he is one of the most serious German-language writers of the century and an inexorable thinker.

He is short and stocky, sports a moustache and bright eyes, speaks vividly and in unmistakable Viennese.

He is like a one-man entertainer switching from one part to the next in one of his plays. He seems more like a humorist, but one who is very, very intelligent.

Yet he is a writer who has been compared with Robert Musil and Alfred Döblin, Hermann Broch and Thomas Mann. He must be gratified to have finally been given recognition.

It has come late in life, a life in which he has cultivated a strict mental outlook in years in exile and out of the limelight.

He has been able to establish his telling questions and refusal to conform as a position that is now widely visible. His writings are held together by what the citation calls a most original and vigorously-profiled personality.

It is an achievement that has been wrested from a life beset by many obstacles. Becoming a German writer can certainly not have been easy.

He was born on 25 July 1905 in a small town on the Danube in Bulg... His parents were Spanish Jews. The family moved to Manchester, England... 1911 but his father died and they moved to Vienna.

There he learnt German and we... school. He passed his Abitur, or uni... sity entrance exam, in Frankfurt... Main and read natural science in Vie...

After his PhD he lived as an ac... mic and writer, having planned ... 1925 to write a work about the ma... a phenomenon.

He did not publish his analysis of... mass psychology of our violent ti... *Masse und Macht* (Crowds and Po... until 1960.

The intellectual atmosphere in Vie... in the 20s was very much to his di... ing. He detested what he felt was... genuine but operatic in, say, Franz W... fel.

The satirist Karl Kraus, on the ot... hand, who was strictly opposed to... literary Vienna of his age, became o... of Canetti's most admired and respec... models.

But Canetti feels the counter-inf... ences, not the influences, to have be... more important for his work. Bert... Brecht was, perhaps inevitably, one su... counter-influence.

He came to know Brecht while wo... ing as a translator for the Malik Ve... in Berlin in 1929. Brecht was mark... lax in his attitude towards all clas... values. This Canetti, a moralist, ab... red. He started work on *Die Blend...* best rendered as The Blinding or T... Deception, in 1930. It is the tale of... Sinologist who lives in a world of book...

He is only confronted with reality ... marrying his housekeeper (a marriage o... which she insists). It is a confrontati... that leads to grotesque episodes whi... finally make him lose all links with h... surroundings.

Iz is a lengthy study of an intellectu... who loses touch with the world outsi... his own mind. It was published i... Vienna in 1935 and given good notice... but failed to gain the recognition it de... served.

He also wrote plays, *Hochzeit* (T... Wedding), 1932, and *Komödie der Eite... keit* (Comedy of Vanity), 1934, but the... were not staged until after the war.

He emigrated via Paris to London i... 1938, when Hitler marched into Austri... He has lived in London ever since.

There he concentrated on his study o... the masses, an issue that occupied hi... for 30 years. He started writing *Mas... und Macht* in 1948.

It was published in two volumes i... 1960 and 1962 and immediately ac... laimed. He deals with crowds and po... from the anthropological, ethnolog... psychiatrical and mythological v... point.

After *Masse und Macht* his main w... of fiction, *Die Blendung*, was redis... vered in Germany. It had long b... hailed in English and French.

*Die Blendung* was reprinted in G... many in 1963. His plays were publis... In 1965 the first volume of his fascin... ing autobiography appeared. ...

He had started making diary... notes before and during the war, a... sole accompaniment to his acad... work. During this period he felt un... to write fiction.

*Willem P. Enge...*

(Mannheimer Morgen, 15 October 19...)

## ...HE CINEMA

# Life in the embattled streets of Beirut

...nnoversche Allgemeine

...s of the location work on Volker ...löndorff's latest film *Die ...ng* (German title: The Forgery), ...n the novel by Nicolas Born, ...like copy filed by a war corre...l.

...film was shot last winter in the ...arred centre of war-torn Beirut. ...r Schlöndorff won an Oscar for ...en version of the Günter Grass *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin...

...ew film was shot while fighting ...ed in Bab Endriss, the former ...s centre of the Lebanese capital, ...the background of the charred ...f the Grand Hotel, burning cars ...pty streets littered with rubble.

...filmmakers, in an astonishing ...amateur diplomacy, had come to ...with both sides in the Lebanese ...a, the Christian militia and the ...guerrillas.

...e was filmed in the breaks be...fighting, yet stray bullets still oc...y whistled around the filmma...rs.

...ny left without a single casualty, ...Lebanese civil war could then continue without regard for the German filmmakers.

*Die Fälschung* was the first novel by Nicolas Born to gain major acclaim. Shortly after it was published the author died, aged 42.

He was prompted to write it because of his acquaintanceship with Kai Hermann, a former reporter for *Stern* magazine. They both lived in a small village on the Elbe near Hamburg.

It tells the tale of Georg Laschen, a German journalist who writes two major reports from Beirut in 1975 and 1976, at the height of the civil war, which he covers for a Hamburg magazine.

He and his photographer are sent back to the Lebanese capital at a time of crisis in Laschen's life. He is in the process of realising that his marriage is on the rocks.

In Beirut he is caught in the inferno of fighting and ventures, in the shadow of death, into the world of masked snipers.

He sees for himself how the bomb-scarred city girds its loins for life with Oriental variety and vitality.

He is there in the decrepit hotel where foreign correspondents write up the war as macabre entertainment for the outside world.

Laschen too serves up shock and horror to suit his readers' tastes. He falls in love with a woman who works at the German embassy, an Arab widow. But she adopts an Arab orphan boy and sends Laschen packing.

He begins to realise his forgery, or falsehood, and refuses to retreat to safer Cairo with the rest of the foreign correspondents.

He stays and is determined to really get to the heart of the war. He is no longer a hard-boiled, cynical commentator; he wants action, not words. He kills someone in action.

Does Schlöndorff's film live up to its aim to combine artistic requirements with political acumen and box office criteria?

Georg Laschen (played by Bruno Ganz) runs for his life

(Photo: United Artists)

It is certainly a painstakingly made film, with many fine passages and outstanding actors. Bruno Ganz as Laschen and Jerzy Skolimowski as his photographer are always worth watching.

But Hanna Schygulla, a phlegmatic actress from the film world of Munich, is less successful in her bid to play the part of a committed Arab woman.

Yet all told *Die Fälschung* is no more than good workmanship, good on details, well arranged, but lacking in sensitivity towards people and their development.

It is a smooth, splendid and expensive

Continued on page 14

■ MEDICINE

# Cooling the heat of the night before with a pill the morning after

Four contraceptive pills, taken the morning after intercourse, are enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. That is all the morning-after pill is.

It and other morning-after methods are relatively uncommon in Germany, but gaining in popularity.

They are particularly useful in what Knut Hoffmann, a Lengerich gynaecologist, calls emergency or first-aid situations.

Dr Hoffmann works for Pro Familia, the family planning association. Its medical committee has tested methods of preventing pregnancy up to five days after intercourse.

Were people better informed on the possibility and were morning-after contraception available from doctors, family planning centres and hospitals, unwanted pregnancies could be prevented more effectively.

Or so the committee says in a report published for doctors and family planning consultants. There are 200,000 legal abortions a year in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Morning-after methods have been available for about 10 years. They include many that are without question legal and do not constitute abortion, Pro Familia says.

One is to insert a loop, or intra-uterine device, after intercourse.

Mechanical contraception, that is devices such as sheaths, pessaries, sprays, jellies, creams and suppositories, have become more popular.

This may well be because women are tiring of the Pill, although the figures that are available are not conclusive.

Pro Familia reckons, going by a survey conducted in its family planning centres, that the percentage of women taking the Pill in Germany fell from 52.4 in 1977 to 36.4 in 1979.

A survey of women readers last spring by *Brigitte* magazine arrived at a proportion of 42 per cent, but this figure applied only to women in their 20s.

Conservative estimates reckon that about one woman in five in the Federal Republic of Germany takes the contraceptive Pill.

There are serveral kinds of morning-after pill. The oestrogen pill has been best subjected to medical scrutiny. It consists of five milligrams of ethinylestradiol a day for five days, starting within 48 hours of intercourse.

The dosage varies in accordance with the hormone content of the contraceptive pill used. A five-milligram dose is either 25 Lynoral, 10 Progynon M 3 mg or 75 Progynon M 0.2 mg.

So the women takes as much oestrogen as she would otherwise take if she were to use the Pill regularly for a year and a half.

The oestrogen morning-after method is 99-per-cent safe but can be accompanied by side-effects such as sickness, vomiting or disturbance of the menstrual cycle.

The hormone intake is lower when the Pill taken the morning after is one containing gestagen, but the method is only 97-per-cent safe.

It is, however, widely used in South America as an alternative to regular intake of the contraceptive pill.

Within 12 hours of intercourse 20 minipills containing gestagen as a contraceptive hormone are enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

The latest method is to take Pills that combine both hormones, such as Eugynon, Duoluton or Stediril, to use their German trade names.

Two must be taken within 60 hours of intercourse, the other two 12 hours later, and this method is said to be 99-per-cent safe.

Oral contraceptives can be much less effective when taken alongside other medicine, Dr Hoffmann says.

The sex hormones they contain are counteracted by, say, barbiturates, tranquilisers and migraine pain-killers.

Family planners do not advise the morning-after pill as an alternative to conventional contraception, merely as an additional method.

They urgently recommend women to take medical advice before preventing pregnancy in this way.

*Klaus Dallibor/dpa*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 14 October 1981)

## Variations in X-ray radiation

The radiation X-ray patients are exposed to can vary 100-fold, a Munich research institute says. It depends on the doctor and the device.

The higher the radiation level, the greater the risk of leukaemia, although the connection has yet to be established in a specific case.

Often the level is too high, says a spokesman for the Radiological and Environmental Research Association, which is jointly financed by Bonn and Bavaria.

The amount of radiation dose for similar work was found in some cases to differ as much as 100 times from one piece of equipment to another.

There are X-ray units with exposure amplifiers that use a minute dose and indicate how much both optically and acoustically.

This display is felt by the Munich research scientists to have a psychologically important effect on the doctor in charge.

The association holds regular courses for doctors in which progress in radiology is dealt with and participants are taught to be careful in the dosage to which they expose patients.

Last year 264 doctors were instructed in three radiation protection courses in how to best handle X-ray radiation.

The Munich scientists say X-rays are often taken unnecessarily. They are particularly dubious about the value of routine X-rays of applicants for public service jobs, for instance.

Health Ministry officials in Bonn are considering the possibility of legislation to make the 1973 X-ray regulations mandatory.

The Munich scientists hope the Bill will specify quality control of X-ray equipment. But they are particularly insistent on the need to brief doctors more intensively on the damage radiation can cause.

This, they say, is already done in the United States. But doctors in Germany are unenthusiastic about radiation protection because the harmful effects of radiation are slow to appear.

They materialise very much later than the exposure to radiation, with the result that there is no clear connection between cause and effect.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 October 1981)

## When men are in greater danger

There are a variety of complaints more likely to affect men than women, a Munich medical congress has been told.

Statistics indicate that older men need more hospital attention than women, whose life expectancy increases proportionately.

Maybe the time has come to set up a branch of medicine dealing with men's complaints in the way that gynaecologists deal with women's.

A variety of medical specialists dealt in Munich with the symptoms, prevention and treatment of men's diseases.

To judge by what they had to say, only two branches of specialised medicine are not predominantly male. They are psychosis and neurosis on the one hand and venereal diseases on the other.

Men are particularly prone to a number of ear, nose and throat complaints, said Professor Karin Schorn of the ear, nose and throat clinic at Munich University Hospital.

Deafness caused by noise, primarily at work, and throat cancer, from which more women have been suffering lately, are frequent among men.

In cancer of the throat there is a clear link with smoking. Nine out of 10 victims are smokers.

Anatomical peculiarities lead to frequent surgery among men, such as for hernia, said Hans Rinecker, chief surgeon at a Munich hospital.

Men's behaviour patterns, especially alcohol consumption, affected the liver and pancreas accordingly. Men were also more prone to stomach cancer, evidently due to stress at work.

Urologist Erich Elsässer said changes in the prostate gland, up to and including cancer, were only part, and a very small part, of his branch of medicine.

More and more young men, even in puberty, were suffering from complaints of the testicles. Professor Elsässer would not rule out the possibility that tight-fitting jeans were to blame.

Strangulation of the scrotum, which acted as a thermostat for the body, could upset the natural course of events in the entire abdomen.

Strokes and trouble with blood circulation in the brain, which were to blame for one in three fatalities in the Federal Republic of Germany, used to occur mainly among men.

But strokes were on the inc[rease] among women too, said neurol[ogist] Gerhard Paal. The risks they ran [inclu]ded nicotine, cholesterol and the Pill.

Men are still in the lead whe[n it] comes to degenerative changes in [the] spinal column and peripheral nerve [in]flammations, the congress was told.

Two people in three, said gastro[en]terologist Rudolf Ottenjann, daily [had] gastric juice come up the wrong way.

Men suffered most from dysp[epsia,] presumably because they ate and d[rank] more than women, he said. Women [had] suffered from gastric trouble to [a] great extent during pregnancy.

Cancer of the colon also seem[ed] more widespread among men [than] among women, although no-one [had] come up with a satisfactory explan[ation].

Men are 20 times more likely [than] women to suffer from gout, said [Hel]mut Mehnert, a specialist in meta[bolic] diseases.

Gout is a particularly striking ex[ample] of a complaint that occurs primar[ily in] times of affluence. During and imm[edia]tely after the war it virtually disapp[eared].

Diabetes, due in part to he[redity,] factors though it may be, is also [clo]sely connected with the good [life.] Here too men seem to suffer mo[re than] women.

*Karl Stankiewi[tz]*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 October 1981)

## Testicle cancer is curable

Cancer of the testicles can now [be suc]cessfully be treated even in its [later] stages when the disease has spread to other parts of the body.

Siegfried Seeber of the tumour [clinic] at Essen University Hospital deal[t with] advances in this sector at the [...] conference of the Haematologica[l and] Oncological Association.

Cancer of the testicles is most [likely] to affect men aged between 15 a[nd ...] and 1,500 new cases a year are re[ported] in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It has three stages: tumours o[f the] testicle, tumours of the lymphatic [system] and subsidiary tumours on the lungs.

In the first case, Dr Seeber said, [be]tween 50 and 70 per cent of cases [were] cured. In the second, prospects of a [cure] had improved from 50 to 70 per cent.

In the third, spectacular successes [had] been reported of late. In two o[f] three cases all tumours had been eli[mi]nated by administering various [drugs] over a period of four months.

There was now a 50-per-cent ho[pe of] a cure for sufferers from cancer o[f the] testicles that had spread to the lym[pha]tic system and lungs.

Professor Wolfgang Wilmanns [of] Grosshadern Hospital, Munich, to[ld] the conference on improvements [in] bone marrow transplants on which [re]search staff were working hard in [Mu]nich, Essen, Tübingen and Ulm.

Marrow transplants, he said, [had] emerged as an acknowledged method [of] treating cancer patients over the [past] decade.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 13 October 1981)

MODERN LIVING

# Pitting wits against a hostile environment

[Wi]mmer, 38, a former Bundeswehr [expe]rt and hand-to-hand combat in[structor,] offers one-week holidays in the [...] of the Eifel Mountains for [...]. The holiday is a survival course. [Holi]daymakers sleep rough and eat [what] they can find. To find out just how [...] a holiday can be, Hartmut Scher[...] of *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*, went [...]

[The] visitor came on our last day. He [mu]st have come from the little [...] of Rollesbroich a couple of miles [away] with the intention of felling a tree.

[He] was clearly startled at the sight [that] presented itself: eight primitive [...] each with a couch of ferns. The [...] were grouped around a campfire [...] some strange, unshaven people, [...] up like polar researchers, sought [...] warmth.

[A b]lack brew, ersatz coffee made of [...] grain, was steaming in old tins. [A] kettle over the fire contained a [gre]en-grey concoction: boiled nettles. [...] Socks drying round the fire [gave off] steam.

"[A] bunch of nuts," muttered the [visitor] as he watched the scene, shak[ing his] head.

[We,] the nuts, were delighted about [the vis]itor. Every change was welcome [after a] week in the forest. We latched [on to h]im and kept him there until he [had] listened to the story of why we were [...] hungry, dirty, wet and ill-hu[moured]. "We're vacationing," we told [him.] "But ours is a special kind of vaca[tion: su]rvival training."

[The] group, headed by ex-Bundeswehr [...] Horst Wimmer, consisted of [a] sales manager from Essen; Rain[er, a] civil servant from Düsseldorf; [...] a trainee from Frankfurt; Jürgen, [th]e carpenter; Ruth and Ulrich of [...]berg — he an insurance broker [and] a university student; and me.

[The] visit by the stranger has its con[sequen]ces. Up to now, we had made a [point] of avoiding other people. But now [we] faced with a bunch of young[sters] from Rollesbroich sneaking up on [us ...].

[Surv]ival training can be many things [to man]y people. The younger generation [think]s of hardship and adventure, of [wilder]ness, desert and danger.

[To] people who lived through the [Secon]d World War shake their heads, [...] to themselves: "They must be [...] to train for survival in a time of [...] and affluence. The trouble with [them i]s that they're too well off."

[Befo]re I set off, a colleague told me [to ta]ke along some cigarettes to have [somet]hing to barter. But as it turned [out, th]is was pointless.

[Befo]re setting out, our survival in[struct]or lined us up for inspection and [went through] our rucksacks, confiscating [every]thing that could have helped sur[vive].

"[Last] year," Wimmer told us, "there [was a] professor who had stuffed his [pa]ck with salami. But salami," said [the] sergeant, "is part of the very civi[lisation] we're trying to leave behind."

[Wimmer] was ruthless in removing [every]thing that was edible or could [make life] easier: pots, cups, cutlery, ciga[rettes,] chocolates, biscuits, chewing gum, [...]s and, finally, money.

When it came to toothbrush and comb, a sharp dispute arose. Wimmer — he addressed us with the familiar "du" from the very beginning — was determined to bar even the basic necessities of daily hygiene, saying: "If you have to brush your teeth you can do so with a twig." But here the group dug in its heels and our instructor had to give in.

Somewhere along the road between Simmerath and Monschau, on the edge of the forest, we were made to disembark from the lorry and continue on foot to the base camp some three miles further into the forest. It was there that our survival training began.

The camp itself was marked by a motley array of felled trees, branches and twigs, some of them already rotten.

We were faced with the "first unusual challenge," as promised in the brochure.

We had to build our own huts, which meant felling more trees and hewing them with the only tools we were allowed: to a saw and two axes.

I struggled for five hours, fingers bloody and arms scratched by the undergrowth.

I wanted to find some branches to make my bed as tolerable as possible, but there were none nearby because the others were quicker.

Jürgen, the carpenter, was already lolling on his bed. "Why doesn't he give me a hand?" I thought.

My bed turned out much too short and the roof of the hut was airy, to say the least, with the stars shining through. All I needed now was a downpour. It would have been like sleeping in a shower.

I decided to take another look around. Only 100 yards or so away I found a hikers' rest hut. Somebody had scribbled on it with chalk: "Home, Sweet Home". It must have been somebody from one of the previous junkets.

The first night was like all the others. Nobody managed to sleep for more than three or four hours. The beds were too uncomfortable and damp and the night too cold.

We were on our feet 12 hours every day but never managed to gather more in the way of food than the bare minimum. Our group was one of the more sedentary ones. Most of the time was spent gathering wood for the campfire that was kept going all day.

Drinking water had to be found and we had to find something that could be brewed to make tea: a mixture of raspberry and other leaves did the trick.

We spent hours searching for something edible. In the end we settled for nettles and sorrel. Hours later, lunch was ready: Steamed nettles and various roots (I thought I could still see the worms that were clinging to the roots by the dozen when I dug them up) and a type of wild mushroom that was later to become Ulrich the insurance broker's favourite dish.

He spent hours searching for the evil-smelling fungus. Following his nose, he would suddenly dart into a clump of bushes and come out with a handful of the slimy stuff, extolling its culinary virtues — Ulrich, of all people, the gourmet and bon vivant.

It was over dinner that we had our first dispute when one of the group said: "Actually, it tastes pretty good."

Survival training had a different meaning for each of us. Bernd and Gerd ate everything, leaf for leaf, because "it's part of the adventure."

Jürgen just filled his stomach to stop the hunger pangs, while Ulrich's wife, Ruth, refused to touch anything, saying she would rather go hungry to the end.

And the end is what everybody was anxiously awaiting. ("Only three more sleeps before we can go home.") Jürgen, the carpenter, had but one dream night after night: food.

When a worried Ruth asked: "What am I to do if a deer sneaks into my hut?" the answer shot out like a bullet: "Hold onto it! For God's sake, hold onto it!"

Wimmer took great trouble to make us perfect survival artists. He taught us to read a map, handle a compass and tie the most useful knots. He also showed us how to tie a rope between two trees and then cross over a river hand over hand.

We even had to build a raft on the shores of the Rursee although only 100 yards away there were excursion steamers plying back and forth.

Bread baking was another thing we learned. We used feed grain that we stamped in a self-made mortar. It took a whole day for the stones to become hot enough to bake the flat, unleavened loaf. It tasted horrible; but still better than the boiled leaves.

Wimmer told us that he had sometimes tried to take along a live animal such as a rabbit or a chicken. But civilisation had made the people so squeamish that they could not bring themselves to slaughter the animals, let alone drink the warm blood. Instead, they treated them like mascots.

All would have been easier if it had not been for the constant rain that turned the soil into a quagmire and seeped through shoes and clothing, making for a general mood of depression.

As it was, we crept along in our wet clothes, dispirited and our energy sapped. By the end of the week we had all lost about four kilos.

As we sat around the fire, we could hear the church clock in the nearby hamlet strike the hours; and when the wind was right the smell of food would waft over.

We could have learned a great deal if only we had not been so exhausted. Wimmer pigeonholed nature in the simple categories of "edible", "inedible" and "poisonous".

He showed us a stream from which we could drink unconcernedly (what he did not tell us was that he had had the water analysed by the city laboratories of Aachen, just to be on the safe side).

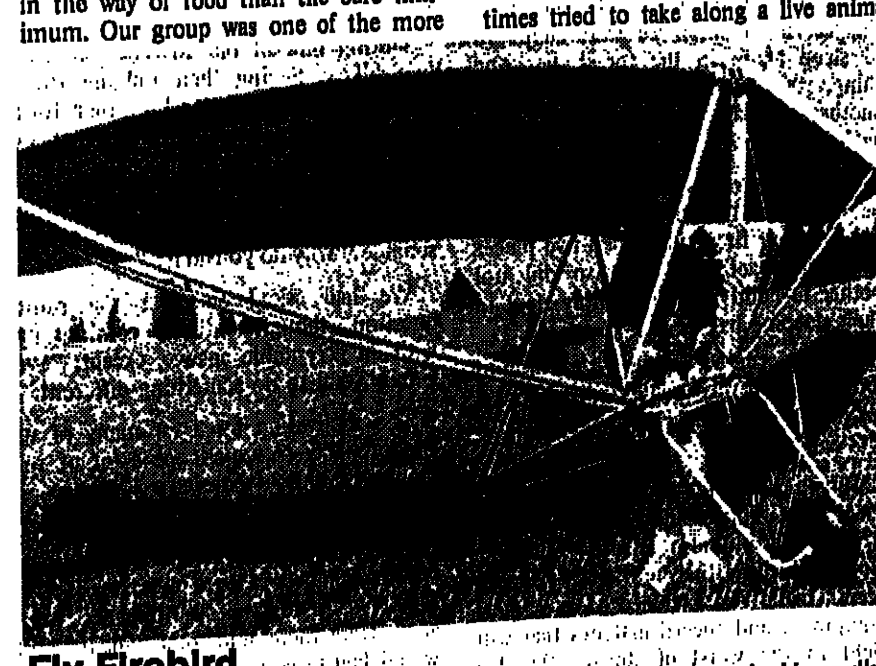
He told us how to eat grasshoppers and other insects or worms, cautioning us to remove the fine hairs from caterpillars. Insects with a carapace, he said, should be simmered for a short while. Among the other recommended edibles were rainworms, ants, frogs, hedgehogs and snails.

Gerd and Bernd were the only ones to try everything. They gathered rainworms,

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Survival training: learning the ropes (Photo: dpa)



**Fly Firebird**

It's flying with a difference at the controls of the Firebird M-1 motorised hang glider designed and built by Fritz Schweiger and Eberhard Jehle from Seeg, near Munich. It is a 70kg (154 lb) lightweight with a 28hp engine and 20-litre tank that keeps it airborne for up to three hours. The Firebird has a top speed of 80km/h (50mph), can be assembled or stripped down in 15 minutes and transported by car. (Photo: dpa)

■ SOCIETY

# Doctors criticised for attitude towards parents of disabled children

Parents need more psychological care than disabled children when the problem is first realised, a seminar has been told.

Doctors and therapists should show more understanding for the parents, said Udo Schlitt, a member of the welfare organisation that organised the conference, *Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband*.

Parents often thought they knew more about their own children than the experts, and this led to conflict.

Parents should accept the "logic of expertise" and the experts, who were guided by what was measurable and possible, should have more regard for parents' "logic of the heart".

Other points included:

- Many doctors did not know what facilities were available for disabled children.
- Children should not be put in institutions unless the parents had access and a say in treatment.
- The way some central institutions operated caused parental dissatisfaction with professional help.

Delegates heard the mother of an eight-year-old blind, spastic and mentally retarded boy tell his story as a case history.

The child was premature and was put in an incubator. After three months, he was discharged, apparently healthy apart from a navel rupture.

About three months later, she found that he did not react to colour or movement. He was blind. Nothing could be done.

The mother found out later that too much oxygen in the incubator was probably the cause.

She said all that mattered to the hospital was that the boy had survived in the incubator. Any other problems were hers.

She was told to keep in close physical contact with the child and buy it special toys.

For the next four years, she watched him round the clock and, once a week, took him to a special centre for the disabled.

Then she found out that he was spastic. Physiotherapy was tried without success.

On top of that, it emerged that he was mentally handicapped.

The mother was advised to have another child.

Delegates to the seminar — about 80 psychologists, social workers and parents of disabled children — agreed that this was a typical case.

Doctors were urged, despite their lack of time, to show more consideration for parents.

Herr Schlitt said that if they did, parents would be more likely to accept therapies.

The meeting agreed that women must find the right obstetrician. It was also important that paediatricians fill in gaps in their knowledge.

A psychologist, Mathias Zeschitz, blamed the way some institutions operated.

Parents reacted with guilty feelings when they realised that therapists in centres thought of their childre "creatures".

Feelings of helplessness were ca when parents were sent off with n advice on special programmes, sui toys, physiotherapy, and then told to patient.

The result was that they tended to and make the best of it by "practi with the child at home.

Another topic was whether in tions for the disabled helped f harmony.

### Access to institutionalised child is essential

Delegates agreed that putting a c in an institution was not "shuntin off."

But they also agreed that that should not be done unless parents access to the home and a say in how child was treated.

Herr Schlitt said children shoul put in institutions for only a few w at a time, primarily to give parents s relief.

Early therapy must begin with parents, delegates were told.

It was the parents more than children who needed more psycholog care at that stage.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze für Deutschland, 13 October 1

# Beirut streets

Continued from page 11

film version of a novel that supplies none of the answers to the telling questions posed by the level-headed novelist.

How, Bom asks, is a man to come to terms with the gap between facts and the reports he files, between words and reality?

He describes how a man gradually comes apart when his job is merely to press the market value out of human misery and suffering.

He shows how his reporter despairs of himself and finally fails because he is no longer able to file copy fresh from where the news is happening.

He is no longer able to conserve and effectively present the news in a way that constitutes a forgery or falsehood, reality perhaps, but in counterfeit currency.

In the film version nothing gets out of hand and everything is presented in carefully arranged settings that insistently proclaim background authenticity.

But it is wildly poetic horror that at times is most impressive, spectacular and effective.

We are shown Beirut burning, screened exclusively for cinemagoers all over the world. Some may find it exciting. Others may find it disgusting to be made tourists and voyeurs in one of the world's worst hotspots.

We must admire the cast and crew for the risks they ran. We must admire Schlöndorff for his diplomacy in coming to terms with the warring factions in Beirut.

*Die Fälschung* is a superb display of pyrotechnics but less successful as a film. The best that can be said is that there were no casualties. *Uta Gote*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 October 1981)

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boiled them and then skewered them onto twigs for grilling over the fire.

But before swallowing their fare, they wanted a snapshot taken of it.

Having eaten their rainworms, one of the two said it tasted like squid while the other found it more reminiscent of meat.

Our group gave Wimmer a hard time and forced him to compromise all along the line.

We disputed the contention in his brochure that one pair of pants was enough to survive with in this frightful weather; and the same went for one pair of shoes. We were adamant that three pairs of pants would have been just right.

We also failed our test of courage on the last night when we were supposed to sleep alone in the forest. For one thing, we were too frightened and, for another, nobody wanted to start all over again building a hut.

The other groups must have been real he-men who did not even use matches to start their fires but rubbed two pieces of wood together. They also did not bother to build huts but simply slept in their sleeping bags.

Even so, come evening we sat around the fire relatively contentedly because we had at least managed to fill our bellies.

Jürgen would tell us about his adventures with Indians and South Sea islanders. He would also tell us about his survival package that he himself had put together and that included basic surgical equipment and special matches that will light in the worst of storms. He also told us of a book we should read ("Living Like Robinson — 1,000 Tips for Adventurers").

We all made a note of the book so

# Pitting wits

that we could relive our tough experience in an easychair.

Wimmer has been practising survival training for the past eight years. The first five years in Belgium and, for the past three years, in the Eifel Mountains.

But before he could start his business in Germany he had to conquer bureaucracy, filing innumerable applications and collecting just as many rejections from various municipalities.

The reasons for the rejections were always the same: apprehension about "the unusual clothing and conduct" of his adventure groups and concern over "the soiling of our forests as a result of heeding the call of nature several times a day."

During one of our marches we met two hikers. Seeing their bulging rucksacks, we were close to asking them for a few sandwiches. We told them that we were practising survival and hadn't eaten for several days.

The question they asked us was reasonable: "Why do you do it?"

We had asked ourselves the same question, though without coming up with an acceptable answer, except: "We simply want to do something different."

The motivating force for many of us was probably to experience a bit of romanticism and adventure.

What really mattered, however, was the person-to-person relations that inevitably developed in such a group. It was exactly this that all participants were after. Here there was total equality and we all had to cope with the same conditions. So we sat around the fire, told jokes and belched.

Wimmer knows a great deal about his customers and what makes them tick.

His clients are primarily desk people the upper income brackets whom sums up as civil servants, managers chers, university professors, hoteliers businessmen.

"You'll be hard put to find a m who does physical work for his mon he said.

Business is brisk for 16 weeks in year.

While Wimmer is out in the "fie his wife and daughter take care of office work.

The tax department has tried to sify him as a travel agent, but he in on being classified as a "free-lance tivity teacher."

Business has been developing sp didly and Wimmer now has an ent new group of customers. Compa have started sending him their m gerial staff and applicants for u echelon jobs. Though they still acc for a relatively small proportion of clients, he has written to some German companies, ten per cen whom have accepted.

He has meanwhile started sp courses for industry. These courses much tougher than the regular ones cause heads of personnel want assessment of job applicants or members.

These people are not allowed to huts but must sleep in sleeping and frequently have to make it on own without group support.

His reports contain evaluations of physical fitness of the participants group attitudes and personal habits willing," "swears").

The business clearly has a Even the Bundeswehr has long conducting survival courses to cope nuclear attack or a major accident nuclear power plant. *Hartmut Scherge*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 October 19



ORT

# First Europe, now the world for junior soccer conquerors

dney Cricket Ground, normally scene of cricket test matches by League football, a crowd of saw West Germany's soccer jun- giant-killers Qatar 4-0 to win championship.

an unexpected win for the Thirteen players cried off and that flew to Australia was a team. Trainer Dietrich Weise ed against sending out a team at

e 13 boys trooped jubilantly in alm, which obviously helped inst the Persian Gulf side, to the silver trophy from FIFA pre- ao Havelange of Brazil.

niors won the European cham- at home four months ago not fancied to do well against erienced but more ambitious s in Australia.

ey could well have won a se- p for fair play had they not their white jerseys for the red their opponents in the final.

the international federation of associations, frowns on this and penalised the German team, then runner-up to hosts Aus- fair play.

is did not dismay the squad ir rain-soaked hair and faces by disbelief. They could hardly they had won the world title.

r could team officials. "If you had told me before we flew from Germany we were going to win the world championship crown," said team manager Egidius Braun, "I would have said you were mad."

But now Herr Braun, who is treasurer of the Frankfurt-based Deutscher Fussball-Bund, or West German FA, was over the moon.

So was trainer Weise, a quiet man not given to exaggeration. "I am naturally overjoyed," he said, "mainly because I never for a minute imagined we were going to pull it off."

Yet his players were warned only three times in six games and, but for the penalty for swapping jerseys, would have come home with two cups.

Weise had learnt from experience that a team had to be built up in next to no time. He had to work with a makeshift squad in the European championship tournament and this time no fewer than 13 players had cried off before Australia.

But he was not complaining. "I relied on the same approach as in the European championships," he said, "For hours I discussed matters with the players, trying to influence them in preparation for the game."

On the day the weather was undeniably on their side. Their Persian Gulf opponents, Qatar, had hoped against hope the hot weather forecast by meteorologists would materialise.

But it rained cats and dogs, a situation in which the German boys felt more at home than the Middle East giant-killers.

"My team coped much better with the rain-soaked pitch," said Weise. Team captain Ralf Loose of Borussia Dortmund felt the final had been the easiest of their six games in Australia. They prepared thoroughly for the final. Qatar had beaten Poland, Uruguay, Brazil and England, so they were obviously a force to be reckoned with, although until then an outsider. Trainer Weise pored over video cassettes and tapes of TV coverage of the Qataris' games to make sure of the tactics his team were to adopt.

The Sydney Cricket Ground, battleground for cricketers like Don Bradman and Ray Lindwall and Rugby League stars Arthur Beetson and Johnny Raper ... Ralf Loose, captain of the triumphant world champion German junior side, holds the cup high. (Photo: dpa)

His squad carried out his instructions to the finest detail. "They simply did everything right," he said. Loose netted penalties in the 28th and 67th minutes.

Roland Wohlfarth of Duisburg scored in the 43rd and Holger Anthes of Frankfurt in the 86th to make it 4-0 (2-0).

They and Zorc, the Dortmund sweeper, were the best players. "In terms of goal opportunities we could justb as well have won 8-0," said the trainer. He is now a world championship winner against his better judgement, as it were, having advised against flying to Australia because the squad would not have time to train for the tournament.

It was DFB president Hermann Neuberger who insisted. Herr Neuberger immediately phoned Sydney to congratulate the team and officials.

But Weise was adamant:

"I still say more preparation is needed for a world championship tournament.

Qatar did surprisingly well in Australia and Egypt beat us in a game that taught us a lesson.

"The leading soccer countries, and that includes us, must further improve their work with juniors."

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 October 1981)

... shared second place ... (Photo: Horstmüller)

# Women's gymnastic team vaults a Hungarian horse

In Vöhringen, near Ulm, the women's gymnastics team beat Hungary by a margin of less than half a point. But it was the first time the women had ever beaten the Hungarians.

When West Germany last played the East Bloc aces in Györ, Hungary, in 1979 the hosts won by a respectable 12.75 points.

So it was little short of sensational for the German girls to have scored 371.35 to the Hungarians' 370.925 points in Vöhringen and won by 0.425 points.

The Hungarian squad is being rebuilt, but then so is the German team. The Hungarians are unlikely, on current form, to succeed in defending their seventh place in the Fort Worth, Texas, world championships.

In Vöhringen the visitors had only two team members with international experience: Erika Flanders, aged 16, who scored 74.775 points to win the individual crown, and Margit Toth, aged 21, who is one of the oldest competitors on the European scene.

She was leading after the set pieces but after a foot injury in the freestyle events retired early.

For the German girls it was their first international competition ever, which makes their victory all the more deserving.

There was no mistaking the work of Vladimir Porok, their chief coach. Porok, who comes from Czechoslovakia, has trained the squad for just over a year.

On the horizontal bars they completed an extremely ambitious programme to outpoint the Hungarians by 0.9 points. They were also much surer of themselves, although by no means faultless, in other events that used to be their weak sports.

Porok, himself a European champion in the 50s, was most impressed by his girls' showing:

"I was particularly pleased by the uniform team performance. The girls can only grow to meet the challenges as a team."

His tactics of running risks to see on the day where his girls' strengths and weaknesses were was certainly borne out.

In the individual ratings second place was shared by Astrid Beckers of Wattenscheid and Dagmar Brannekämper of Koblenz.

The international against Hungary was a dress rehearsal for the world championships, to be held in Moscow next month. In Moscow the team's aim is to finish among the top 12 and qualify for the 1984 Olympics.

To judge by their showing against Hungary the West German girls might just succeed. *Siegfried Bauer*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 October 1981)



... with team-mate Dagmar Brannekämper (Photo: Horstmüller)